MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

24 FEBRUARY 1983

PLO Affairs

Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf has stated that the PLO is ready to accept President Reagan's peace plan if the United States declares its recognition of the Palestinians' right to self-determination, KUNA reported citing Khalaf's remarks to U.S. correspondents in Algiers. The PLO official was quoted as saying that if the United States supports the Palestinians' right to self-determination, the PLO leadership would be willing "to step aside" and allow the West Bank mayors "to negotiate with Washington or Israel," KUNA added.

Voice of PLO radios have not reported Khalaf's remarks.

Commenting on the Palestine National Council (PNC) session, Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, affirmed that the PNC's political program is a victory for national unity and that it is now possible to resolve the political problems which have occurred recently in Palestinian ranks, according to WAM. A Baghdad Voice of PLO analysis said that the PNC session ended with a feeling of "high responsibility" and "unprecedented democracy." The radio reiterated that the Reagan plan does not recognize the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and pointed out that the PLO endorsed the Fes summit plan because the Palestinians are part of the Arab people and cannot be separated from Arab realities. Meanwhile, Riyadh radio noted the PNC's adoption of a number of "important" decisions and described the endorsement of the Fes summit plan as "one of the most outstanding resolutions." The radio asserted that the "tense atmosphere" during some of the PNC debates confirms that the PNC resolutions were formulated in a democratic atmosphere "devoid of emotion, anger, or any kind of pressure."

Egypt

Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali denied that Egypt and Israel have set a date for a resumption of talks on outstanding problems, MENA reported.

Israel

Israeli Reaction to Reagan Offer -- Israeli Prime Minister Begin rejected President Reagan's offer of security guarantees for Israel's border with Lebanon, declaring that Israel wants "security arrangements, not guarantees," Jerusalem radio reported citing Begin's remarks to the Jewish war veterans convention in Jerusalem. The radio said earlier that the issue of U.S. guarantees was actually a "misunderstanding blown out of proportion." The radio added that during Defense Minister Arens' meeting with national security adviser William Clark the latter affirmed that there has been neither a change in U.S. policy nor any new U.S. proposal.

Lebanon

Lebanese presidential envoy Jean 'Ubayd returned to Beirut from Damascus on 24 February after holding talks with "senior Syrian officials," Voice of Lebanon radio announced. An earlier Radio Monte Carlo report disclosed that 'Ubayd held "secret contacts" with Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and discussed matters related to the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations. In another development Jordanian Foreign Minster Marwan al-Qasim arrived in Beirut on 24 February and will convey a message from King Husayn to President al-Jumayyil on the Arab and international situations, the Voice of Lebanon reported.

Oil Affairs

OPEC oil ministers will meet next week "to discuss cutting oil prices," and if they fail to agree on a price reduction the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, and Iraq will unilaterally reduce oil prices, UAE Petroleum Minister Mani' ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah announced in a statement reported by WAKH. Nevertheless, the Gulf oil states "will not enter into a price war" and will intervene to prevent such a war, Saudi Petroleum Minister Yamani stressed in an interview reported by KUNA. The Gulf states "have enough weight and power to make others think twice before beginning a price war," he said. The Saudi and UAE statements followed further meetings in Riyadh in which the Saudi, UAE, Kuwaiti, and Qatari ministers were joined by their Iraqi counterpart, according to Riyadh radio and SPA. Yamani subsequently held talks with visiting Libyan Oil Minister al-Maqhur, who not only outlined Libya's position but also presented the views of the Iran and Algeria, KUNA reported.

Libya

Hijackers Surrender -- The hijackers of a Libyan passenger plane surrendered to Maltese authorities and all passengers and crew emerged unharmed, JANA reported. Two dissident Libyan Army officers who staged the hijacking have been placed under the jurisdiction of Maltese authorities and can choose their next destination. Five other Libyans who joined the hijackers will be repatriated to Libya, according to a Maltese Government spokesman's statement reported by AFP.

Arab Unity Call -- Commemorating the anniversary of the Egyptian-Syrian unity experiment of 1958, Libya's "Revolutionary Command" issued a statement transmitted by JANA affirming Libyan readiness "to immediately start unity procedure with any progressive Arab regime or faction" on the sole condition that this unity serve the interests of the "masses" and channel all its capabilities toward the liberation of Palestine. The statement called on Algeria and Tunisia to take steps toward unity with Libya and suggested an urgent meeting between the Libyan and Syrian leaderships to implement unity agreements.

Response to Mubarak Allegation -- Responding to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's claim that Libyan planes recently violated Egyptian airspace, JANA asserted that if Libyan planes had indeed entered Egyptian airspace, "this would have been an honor for Egypt." Libyan aircraft defended Egyptian airspace in the October war and the Egyptian people "will celebrate" when Libyan planes return to protect Egypt's airspace, JANA declared.

Iran

"Hypocrites" attacked a bus carrying revolution guards in Esfahan, killing 2 and wounding 11 others, according to a Revolution Guards Corps statement broadcast by Esfahan radio.

Afghanistan

Two strong explosions shook central Kabul on 22 February after an unusually heavy night of shooting in the capital, AFP reported citing a diplomatic source in Islamabad.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL CONCLUDES IN ALGIERS

Further on Political Statement

[LD231846 [Editorial Report] Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic at 1702 GMT on 23 February carries the political statement issued on 22 February at the concluding session of the Palestine National Council (PNC) in Algiers. This has been compared to the Algiers Domestic Service version, published on page A 14 of the 23 February Middle East and Africa DAILY REPORT. The first section of the Algiers Voice of Palestine version reads as follows:

[Text] On the Palestinian Level:

1. Palestinian National Unity:

The battle of steadfastness of heroism in Lebanon and Beirut epitomizes Palestinian national unity in its best form. Out of this leading Palestinian experience, the PNC affirms the need to bolster national unity among the revolution's detachments within the framework of the PLO and to exert efforts to improve organizational relations in all PLO institutions and bodies on the basis of forward action and collective leadership, and on the basis of the organizational and political program endorsed by the 14th PNC session.

Independent Palestinian Decision:

The PNC affirms continued adherence to independent Palestinian decisionmaking, its protection, and the resisting of all pressures from whatever source to detract from this independence.

Palestinian Armed Struggle:

The PNC affirms the need to develop and escalate the armed struggle against the Zionist enemy. It affirms the right of the Palestine revolution forces to carry out military action against the Zionist enemy from all Arab fronts. It also affirms the need to unify the forces of the Palestine revolution within the framework of a single National Liberation Army.

2. The Occupied Homeland:

The PNC salutes our steadfast masses in the occupied territory in the face of the occupation, colonization, and uprooting. It also salutes their comprehensive national unity and their complete rallying around the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, both internally and externally. The PNC condemns and denounces all the suspect Israeli and American attempts to strike at Palestinian national unanimity and calls on the masses of our people to resist them.

3. The PNC affirms the need to bolster the unity of national, social, trade union, and popular organizations and to work for the revival and development of the national front internally.

4. The PNC affirms the need to intensify efforts to bolster the steadfastness of our people inside the occupied homeland and to provide them with all the requisites for this steadfastness in order to end forced emigration, to protect the land, and to develop the national economy.

As-Sartawi Denies Rift

GF221654 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 21 Feb 83 p 22

[Exclusive report from Algiers]

[Excerpt] Dr 'Isam as-Sartawi announced his resignation from the PNC yesterday because the PNC had concluded its discussion of the political statement without granting him the right to speak, although he had registered his name among those who wanted to speak 2 days beforehand.

In reply to a question by AL-QABAS on his resignation, he said: My resignation is not a kind of rift within the PNC. AL-QABAS asked him whether he would resign from Fatah. He said: No, because I consider my presence in it as my capital. He will continue working within the PLO, which is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, he said.

Leaders Hold Joint Meeting

GF231956 Aden Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1820 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] WAFA has learned that a joint meeting of the Executive Committee, the secretaries general of resistance factions, and the chairmanship of the PNC was held following the conclusion of the morning session yesterday, prior to the endorsement of the political program and the election of the Executive Committee.

'Arafat Receives PRC Delegation

GF232000 Aden Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1820 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian forces, yesterday evening received the PRC delegation to the meetings of the 16th session of the PNC.

The meeting was attended by Brother 'Abd ar-Rahim, PLO Executive Committee member, and Brother At-Tayib 'Abd ar-Rahim, Fatah Revolutionary Council member and PLO representative in Beijing.

A review of the situations in the Arab and international arenas and of developments of the Palestinian question was made during the meeting.

Al-Fahum Closes Session

LD232202 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1702 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] Following the important speech delivered yesterday by Brother Abu Ammar, the PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestine revolution forces, Brother Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the PNC, announced the conclusion of the 16th PNC session. He said:

I wish the PLO Executive Committee, under the chairmanship of Brother Yasir 'Arafat, all success in shouldering the trust and in performing the mission of struggle which has continued for a long time, claiming the lives of many martyrs. In the name of God and Palestine, I announce the conclusion of this session.

'Arafat Addresses Newsmen

LD232114 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] Following the conclusion yesterday of the 16th PNC meeting, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat addressed the Algerian press at the Palais des Nations. He began by addressing greetings from the Palestine revolutionaries, who embraced the Palestine revolution from its conception, even before the first bullet was fired. He said: I recall that when we fired our first bullet in 1965 the Algerian revolutionaries addressed a salute to us on the pages of EL MOUDJAHID, the organ of the FLN. He added that it emerges, following the Beirut battle, that the Palestine revolution would not have been able to attain all these results had not President Chadli Bendjedid and the people of the 1.5 million martyrs embraced this revolution, because they suffered as we did and also could have used the capabilities which they have since placed at the disposal of their brothers in the Palestine revolution.

'Arafat said that, contrary to tradition, President Chadli Bendjedid refused to sit at the platform but sat among the guests, saying: I am your guest. 'Arafat described this attitude as an indication of true fraternity and true revolutionism. At the same time, he said, this should serve as an example for others. In view of this, in the name of our children, our people, and our revenge, I thank President Chadli Bendjedid and the Algerian people -- every man, woman, and child in this proud country.

'Arafat affirmed that the Palestine revolution stands on solid ground, the ground of the Palestinian people and the Arab nation. He said: We pledge to every man, woman, and child in our nation that we will continue along the road to the creation of the independent state of Palestine with Jerusalem as its capital.

Concerning the program for the unification of the forces of the Palestine revolution, 'Arafat pointed out that it is being formed under a good omen akin to that of the formation of the Algerian National Liberation Army. The Palestinian revolution, he said, will have one army, the Palestinian National Liberation Army. Last September, he said, when the anniversary of the Yemeni revolution was commemorated in Aden, we carried out important military training for our forces, transporting 7,500 men within 48 hours. That operation was extremely important.

'Arafat said: I hold an olive branch in one hand and a gun in the other until a just and lasting solution is reached guaranteeing freedom and independence for our people and the creation of their independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

'Arafat referred to the 16th PNC session's decision on the Brezhnev plan, affirming that this plan was also welcomed at past sessions.

As to relations with Jordan, 'Arafat said that a joint Palestinian-Jordanian committee meets periodically to discuss common issues and projects.

Following the Beirut war, 'Arafat said: Military operations have not stopped; the resistance has waged 355 military operations against the Zionist enemy during this period. He said: We have pledged to God and to our nation either to achieve victory or martyrdom.

Leaders Hail Session, Decisions

GF231618 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1330 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] Algiers, 23 Feb (WAM) -- A number of PLO leaders have affirmed that the 16th session of the PNC is considered a victory for the Palestinian national unity program. In statements following the adoption of the political statement yesterday, these leaders hailed the high spirit of responsibility shown by all the participants in the session and their determination to adopt decisions which will serve the major cause of the sons of the Palestinian people.

Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the PNC, said the decisions were adopted after expanded democratic discussions. These decisions are a clear indication that the Palestinian people are determined to continue their struggle until they achieve the independent Palestinian state under the leadership of the PLO.

Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, Fatah Central Committee member, described the 16th session of the PNC as a marvelous Palestinian event in which the spirit of love and brotherhood prevailed. He expressed his pleasure at the adoption of a clear political work program for the coming stage.

Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine affirmed that the political program is considered a victory for national unity on a clearly principled political basis and a defeat of the separatist and defeatist parties. He said that the program for national unity, the return, self-determination, and the establishment of the independent state triumphed under the banner of the PLO. The Camp David accords, the Reagan plan, and the delegation of any Arab country to speak on behalf of our people were defeated. Hawatimah described the results of the session as a victory for the program of struggle for mobilizing and concentrating all forces of the Palestinian people and the Arab and international liberation forces in favor of the just cause of the Palestinian people. He said that these results are considered a defeat for all the parties which tried to lead us toward the direction of Reagan and his U.S. settlements.

Regarding his view on the future of the Palestinian revolution, Nayif Hawatimah said that now after the declaration of the political statement it has become possible to resolve all the political problems which occured in the revolution's ranks recently and to develop our national unity. He said that the Palestinian struggle is now being waged on a firm commitment to these objectives. The secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine concluded his statement. We are struggling to change the position of the Palestinian revolution from the democracy of dialogue to collectiveness and democracy of decision, so that we can move forward.

Abu Mahir al-Yamani, member of the PLO Executive Committee and member of the Political Bureau of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said that the revolution has two basic objectives: a healthy national program and firm national unity. Abu Mahir hailed the decisions and said that they achieve the objectives of the conference in reaching a principled stance - which is the minimum acceptable limit -- and national unity that can develop this stance. Concluding his statement, he expressed optimism at the future despite all the difficulties and said: Through the Palestinian masses, we can achieve the objectives for which we are struggling.

KUNA: Khalaf Statements 'Trial Ballon'

LD232103 Kuwait KUNA in English 1846 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] Washington, Feb 23 (KUNA) -- A leading official of the Palestinian resistance movement, who is a member of the Central Committee of Fatah, Salah Khalaf, was quoted here today as saying that the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization would back the initiative of the American President Reagan on the Middle East if it was amended so as to provide the achievement of self-determination for the Palestinian people.

Khalaf was speaking at a special meeting with American reporters in Algiers following the meeting of the Palestine National Council which were concluded last night. In its final statement the council rejected the initiative of President Reagan on the ground that it cannot be a basis for solving the Palestinian question and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The statements by Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, were immediately described here as a "trial ballon."

The Palestinian official, who said that he was speaking on behalf of the leader of the PLO, Yasir 'Arafat, and other moderate Palestinian leaders, was quoted as saying: "If the U.S. supports the right to self-determination for the Palestinian people, then the PLO leadership would be willing to step aside and allow the mayors from the West Bank to negotiate with Washington or Israel." Khalaf was also quoted as saying: "After accepting the truth that, in the eyes of the American Government, we -- the PLO -- are the bad Palestinians, let your government recognize the right of our Palestinian people to self-determination and not our right." [sentence as received] He added: "I can assure you that Yasir 'Arafat and myself would agree to be excluded."

The PLO official said that the question of forming a Palestinian delegation from outside the PLO "is not a problem as far as we are concerned." He suggested that, since the U.S. recognizes exiled West Bank mayors such as Fahd al-Qawasimi of Hebron and Muhammad Milhim of Halhul as legitimate Palestinian representatives, it should make the offer of self-determination directly to them.

"Please note that I am being perfectly sincere," Khalaf said. "The important thing is that Reagan modifies his plan."

The PLO leader said that "by adding to it (the Reagan plan) just one word, things could change completely. The word is self-determination."

Asked if he and 'Arafat would accept a split in the PLO, which such a decision would surely entail, Khalaf said: "Give us a reply, an amended Reagan plan, and then we will discuss it. We are prepared to take the responsibilities of the consequences of the Reagan plan and its repercussions."

Khalaf's offer was reported in detail Wednesday by such prominent newspapers as the NEW YORK TIMES, THE WASHINGTON POST, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL and the CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR.

American Middle East experts said they doubted the Reagan administration would agree to amend the President's peace plan. U.S. officials have said on several occasions that they regard the word "self-determination" as a "codeword for an independent Palestinian state," and the President is strongly opposed to the creation of an independent state in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Analysts here were surprised by the PLO leader's statements. Some observers noted that by offering to keep the PLO on the sidelines in any (?future) negotiations over the West Bank and Gaza, Khalaf appeared to be surrendering one of the organization's key bargaining cards and undercutting the PLO as a factor in the peace process.

U.S. officials may now claim that the administration can [word indistinct] ignore the PLO, since top PLO leaders themselves appear to agree that the organization should have no role in the peace process, the observers noted.

The analysts believe that the Reagan administration, using Khalaf's comments, might not attempt to formalize inclusion of the West Bank mayors in a Jordanian delegation in face-to-face negotiations with the Israelis, knowing in (?advance) that this has now become more acceptable to the PLO. The Middle East analysts here described Khalaf's proposal as "an act of desperation" that could very well backfire."

According to THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, the PLO leader's comments "were intended as a signal to the U.S., but they also represented a kind of diplomatic game. Having just approved a resolution critical of the Reagan plan, the PLO leadership wants to demonstrate that the door to negotiation still will be open if the other [side] makes concessions."

The problem with the trial balloon is that the Reagan administration has shown no inclination to bargain over the proposals set forth in the President's initiative, observers noted. The administration is having enough difficulty trying to persuade Israel to reconsider the peace plan as it now stands, and officials here are unlikely to consider modifacations that would make the prospect of Israeli cooperation even more remote.

Khalaf on Council Decisions

JN231950 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1725 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Interview with Fatah Centeral Committee member Salah Khalaf, identified by nom de guerre Abu Iyad, by correspondent Nabil Darwish on 23 February -- place not given; recorded]

[Text] [Question] You met with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid today. Can you quickly review what took place in this meeting?

[Answer] The meeting dealt with issues that were discussed by the PNC. Of course, the discussion dealt with Arab solidarity, the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, and all issues that were submitted for discussion to the PNC and on which resolutions were adopted. President Bendjedid was really happy because the conference was a complete success, particularly the issue of Palestinian national unity. President Bendjedid emphasized to us the importance of maintaining this objective as our guideline in all our future moves. He also pointed out the logic and realism of the resolutions. He assessed this point positively.

[Question] Is everyone unanimous that the results of the 16th PNC session were a personal triumph for Yasir 'Arafat? In your opinion, on what points did Yasir 'Arafat triumph?

[Answer] I believe that it was a triumph for all Palestinians and loyal Arabs because these resolutions, which reflect realism, are not intransigent, as some were expecting, not to mention the wagers that had been made that the PNC would come out divided. In my opinion, the most prominent of these resolutions is the resolution on the Fes plan, then the one judging Reagan's plan on a scientific basis and not on the basis [words indistinct].

[Question] Abu Iyad, what does the expression "judging Reagan's plan on a scientific basis" mean? Does it mean the PLO has left the door open for a dialogue with Washington?

[Answer] From this angle, I believe we can say that this is so, meaning that only the negative points in this plan have been rejected. That's why I say that the evaluation of Reagan's plan was an objective evaluation [words indistinct]. As for the remaining resolutions, in my opinion there was a resolution which no one paid attention to, the one dealing with Brezhnev's plan, which was unanimously approved. The title of any plan is not the important thing. I hope everyone will understand the meaning of the six points of the plan.

[Question] I believe that the most important provision of the plan is the one on the right of all countries in the region, including Israel, to live in peace. Is it not so?

[Answer] It is true that this is the text of the plan, but in the PNC the positive points of the plan were considered and the positive points of the plan were submitted.

[Question] But approval took place on the entire Brezhnev plan. Can we therefore consider this as a new development in the PNC stand?

[Answer] I believe this is a great development in addition to the approval of the Prague statement as the conference greeted and expressed appreciation for this statement which was issued by the Political Committee of the Warsaw Pact countries. The resolutions also contain provisions on President Brezhnev's plan and the Fes summit. In my opinion, this resolution in particular was unanimously approved without any complications.

[Question] In their short interview you have used the words "realism" and "objectivity" more than once. During the PNC session you were really realistic and your speech was one of the most moderate ones. Is this a new PLO course?

[Answer] I believe that the matter has to do with our people in the occupied territories, in Lebanon, and in the disposal. We are supposed to give these people a platform and a base for struggle that would be acceptable and logical so that they can struggle without despair. I repeat and insist that they must struggle without despair. To give our people outlets will make them struggle more and make them adhere more to the PLO as their sole and legitimate representatives.

[Question] With regard to Syria since the wave of criticism and counter-criticism, Abu 'Ammar stated in a closed meeting that if Syria closes the door, he will enter it from the window and if the window is also closed, then he will dig a tunnel. What about this relationship, and is there an intention to leave for Damascus?

[Answer] I believe that after this great PNC conference there is an intention to open dialogue once again so that we and fraternal Syria can reach common grounds on clear bases to enable us to begin joint action in more than one field. This has been emphasized by more than one brother in the speeches delivered during the PNC session, particularly in yesterday's session when Brother Abu 'Ammar also reiterated this point.

[Question] Did you discuss this issue with President Chadli Benjedid today?

[Answer] This issue was the crux of the meeting. I believe President Chadli Bendjedid has played and will continue to play an important role in our relations with fraternal Syria, which must be sound and correct.

[Question] Can we then say that Algerian mediation began today between Damascus and the PLO?

[Answer] I prefer not to call it mediation; I prefer to call it...

[Question] Good offices?

[Answer] Yes, good offices, and these good offices must resume as soon as possible.

[Question] What about the next stage?

[Answer] The realistic and objective PNC resolutions not only deal with the Arab plan adopted by the FES summit but also opened the door for the PLO on more than one front. These resolutions do not bind the PLO to a specific sphere of action or only one sphere of action. They provide it with many options. From this premise I believe that the Palestinian leadership and the PLO can in the future move with complete freedom in more than one field. This is important for us, particularly with regard to the future on the Egyptian, Jordanian fronts and even on the front of the democratic and progressive forces in Israel.

[Question] There is the Egyptian front. When we were in Algiers we noticed that Abu Iyad met many times with the Egyptian delegation. We know very well that Abu Iyad has close ties with Cairo. Will you make a visit in the near future?

[Answer] The issue is not one of a visit but one of an open heart and mind for healthy relations on the basis of correcting what took place in the past.

[Question] You, of course, continue to reject Camp David, but are no longer putting it as a condition for rapprochement. Is it not so, Abu Iyad?

[Answer] I believe that the PNC set this as a condition, not a condition to cancel Camp David but a condition to proceed and seek any step that may lead to the relinqishment of these accords.

MONTE CARLO: 'ARAFAT TO VISIT AMMAN IN MARCH

JN221225 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1215 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] Informed sources in Amman today affirmed that Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat will visit Jordan in March to resume the dialogue with King Husayn on joint Jordanian-Palestinian political moves in light of the Palestine National Council resolutions.

Prior to his visit to Amman, 'Arafat will participate in the work of the Arab seven-member committee which stemmed from the Arab summit in Fes. The committee is scheduled to hold an emergency meeting to appraise the outcome of its previous contacts with UN Security Council member states.

GULF AFFAIRS

REPORTAGE ON MEETING OF GULF OIL MINISTERS

Iraqi Oil Minister Arrives

GF231102 Jidda Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] The petroleum ministers of the Kingdom, Kuwait, the UAE, Qatar, and Iraq held a meeting this morning at the conference palace in Riyadh. During the meeting, the ministers will continue discussion of the latest developments in the international oil market.

Iraqi Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad Taqi arrived this morning in Riyadh to take part in the meetings of the Arab Gulf oil ministers which began yesterday in Riyadh with the aim of discussing the latest developments in the international oil market. Upon arrival, he was received by Petroleum and Mineral Affairs Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani and a number of officials.

The Iraqi oil minister told SPA that Iraq wants to reach an agreement that unifies views with regard to all oil issues, not only within the Arab Gulf countries but with the remaining OPEC members. He added: We view OPEC's cohesion and unity as a guarantee that ensures the interests of everbody. He stressed that having a unified system for OPEC is the best guarantee for the interests of the member countries because when some countries have their own prices -- whether they are in or out of OPEC -- it implies that the other member countries have to look into means of ensuring their interests unless a unanimous agreement is reached. The Iraqi minister expressed hope that an agreement that unifies views and achieves everybody's interests will be reached.

Libyan Oil Minister Arrives

LD231632 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1510 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] Riyadh, 23 Feb (SPA) -- Libyan Oil Minister Kamil Hasan al-Mahruq arrived in Riyadh this afternoon for a visit to the Kingdom during which he will meet with Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Affairs Ahmad Zaki Yamani to discuss developments in oil markets.

He was welcomed by his excellency the minister of petroleum and mineral affairs and a number of other officials.

Oil Ministers Meet

LD231945 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1634 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] Riyadh, 23 Feb (KUNA) -- The oil ministers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Libya held a meeting here today immediately after the arrival of Libyan Oil Minister Dr Kamil al-Maqhur.

Well-informed oil sources told KUNA that Ministers Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah and Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani will hear Libya's viewpoint on the current and future situation in the oil market. The sources said that the Libyan minister brings with him the views of other oil states, such as Iran and Algeria, which were laid down at a secret meeting held between them in Geneva last Monday.

It is recalled that Libya, Algeria, and Iran, in addition to Nigeria and Venezuela, have adopted an oil stand that is not in line with the policies of the oil states, because they did not keep to the basic price for a barrel of oil, (?differential) prices, and also producing greater quantities of oil than the ceiling fixed by OPEC.

The same sources stressed that the Saudi and Kuwaiti ministers will make clear the positions of the Arab Gulf states regarding their views on OPEC's future and the desire of these states to fix a new reduced basic price agreed by all OPEC ministers. They will also explain that if no agreement on or commitment to a new reduced price that could be agreed on at a future OPEC ministerial meeting is reached, the Arab Gulf states will reduce their oil prices to below that which any OPEC state or group can reduce theirs.

Future Meeting Planned

LD231210 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1144 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] Riyadh, 23 Feb (KUNA) -- Oil ministers of five Arabian Gulf countries, members of OPEC, have announced that a meeting is to be held by the 13 OPEC members next week to agree on a cut back in basic oil prices.

Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, and Iraq threatened at the end of their oil ministers meetings here that if during the forthcoming OPEC meeting all the members do not adhere to a unified price, then the Arabian Gulf oil countries will cut back their prices to a level below the oil prices of the other producing countries which do not adhere to the agreement.

UAE Minister of Petroleum and Natural Resources Dr Mani' ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah announced that a meeting of the Gulf states-members of OPEC will be held next week in Geneva or Vienna to discuss the subject of cutting back prices.

He threatened that if agreement is not reached on a cutback in prices, then the Gulf states will effect more and bigger cutbacks than the other states that will be reducing the price of their oil.

Dr al-'Utaybah did not specify what this reduced price would be.

Dr al-'Utaybah said "we hope the OPEC ministers will agree to a new price below the current basic price of $34 a barrel. Otherwise we, the Arabian Gulf states, will take another path." He explained that "Iraq supports the decision of the four other Gulf states."

This was confirmed by the Saudi Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Affairs Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, who said: "The cutback in prices is inevitable."

He added: "We had contacts with Indonesian Minister Dr Subroto and he made it clear to us that he agrees with our views."

He announced that Libyan Minister Dr Kamil al-Maqhur is due in Riyadh within the next 2 hours.

Yamani on Oil Price War

LD231050 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0926 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 23 Feb (KUNA) -- Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, has stated that the Arab Gulf oil states "will intervene with all their weight and power to ensure that others think twice before beginning a price war."

In an interview with KUNA today, Shaykh Yamani said: "We will not enter into a price war but we will intervene to stop a price war between oil states." He was answering a question on whether the Arab Gulf oil states would begin a price war to protect their interests if Nigeria and other oil states continue cutting their oil prices.

Shaykh Yamani said: "The Arab Gulf oil states have enough weight and power to make others think twice before beginning a price war." However, he did not mention the ways and means the Arab oil states would use in order to ensure an end to an expected price war between OPEC member countries.

Shaykh Yamani emphasized that "it is not in the interests of Nigeria and the oil-producing and consuming states to start a price war."

On whether he thinks it is better for the OPEC oil ministers to agree on a new price for a barrel of oil, Shaykh Yamani said: "This would be better." Concerning a new reference price per barrel of oil he feels the OPEC member states should adopt, he said: "This is actually the topic of our debates and discussions now taking place in these meetings."

Regarding the position of his country in any attempt to fix such an expected new price, he said: "The position of Saudi Arabia is similar to that of its sister countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council, and we have no particular position."

UAE Minister on Oil Prices

GF231550 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1430 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 23 Feb (WAKH) -- Dr Mani ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah, UAE minister of petroleum and natural resources, has announced that the OPEC oil ministers will hold a meeting in Vienna or Geneva next week to discuss cutting crude oil prices.

Following his return from Riyadh this evening after participation in the meetings of a number of GCC oil ministers which were concluded today, Dr al-'Utaybah said that if the upcoming OPEC conference does not agree on the reduction of prices, the five Gulf states, which are the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, and Iraq, will reduce the prices of their oil.

He said that contacts will be made with Mexico and the North Sea countries during the next few days to coordinate with these countries and the other OPEC countries on the situation in the oil market.

Dr al-'Utaybah expressed hope that there will be specific coordination among these countries. He said that there are encouraging signs of some kind of coordination between the oil-producing countries inside and outside of OPEC.

PDRY

BRIEFS

MINISTER DEPARTS FOR WASHINGTON -- Brother Muhammad Sulayman Nasir, Central Committee candidate member and minister of agriculture and agrarian reform, left Aden for Washington leading a delegation from the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform and the Ministry of Planning to hold talks with officials at the International Development Association [IDA] of the World Bank on participation in the financing of the second stage of the development of Hadramant Valley, the overall cost of which is $39 million. In a statement to ANA, he said an initial agreement will be signed with the World Bank on financing this project. [Excerpt] [Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 22 Feb 83 GF]

'ALI DENIES TALKS WITH ISRAEL TO RESUME SOON

NC231754 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1740 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] Cairo, 23 Feb (MENA) -- Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali today denied that a date has been set for discussing matters pending between Egypt and Israel. He said that all matters are still subject to discussions.

'Ali said this in statement to journalists today, commenting on reports that the joint Egyptian-Israeli military committee will resume its meetings soon.

ENVOY TO SECURITY COUNCIL ON SUDAN-LIBYA CRISIS

NC232228 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1940 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] The United Nations, 23 Feb (MENA) -- The Egyptian permanent representative at the United Nations, Ahmad Tawfiq Khalil, has emphasized that Egypt is committed to defending fraternal Sudan upon Sudan's request and to the extent agreed upon. He said that the two states have a joint defense agreement requiring them to defend each other.

In a speech at the Security Council today, Ahmad Tawfiq Khalil pointed out that Egypt will not fall into the trap of useless rhetorical clashes with regard to the current situtation between Sudan and Libya. He said that what Egypt wants is for Libya to adhere to what is declared in its message to the president of the Security Council -- that it wants peace and stability in the area.

The permanent Egyptian representative to the United Nations said in his speech that Egypt has not brandished its arms against any Arab state nor has it fired a single bullet at any Arab soldier; throughout its history, Egypt has been a shield to the Arab nation.

Meanwhile, the Security Council has approved a Jordanian request to allow the Arab League to participate in the Security Council's debate of Libya's request to discuss what it termed as the deteriorating situation close to the Libyan shores.

The president of the Security Council then called on the Arab League observer to make his statement to the Council.

MUHYI AD-DIN CHAIRS CABINET MEETING 23 FEBRUARY

NC231737 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Excerpts] CAiro, 23 Feb (MEAN) -- The Cabinet held a meeting this morning under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din.

During its meeting, the Cabinet discussed a number of topics including domestic, foreign, economic, and supply policies in addition to a draft resolution for modifying some provisions of civil personnel law.

Following the meeting Counsellor 'Adil 'Abd al-Baqi, minister of state for Cabinet affairs and administrative development, declared that the Cabinet reviewed foreign policy at the beginning of its meeting; Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali also commented on the discussions which took place during the meetings of the PNC in Algiers and affirmed that the dialogue between Egypt and the PLO will continue in the coming phase as it has in the past.

Mr 'Abd al-Baqi added that Minister 'Ali briefed the Cabinet on the circumstances which surrounded the recent conspiracy against Sudan and affirmed that Egypt will put into effect the joint defense treaty with Sudan in order to stand by its side in case of any foreign threat against it.

As for the domestic situation, Counsellor 'Abd al-Baqi stated that the interior minister affirmed that the situation is stable among the masses and that Egypt's balanced policy and the correctness of the Egyptian course are appreciated by the people. The interior minister added that the government's serious policy in combating corruption is supported and welcomed by the people. He said that the ideological dialogue with the extremist religious groups has brought about positive results.

MUBARAK INTERVIEWED ON 'ARAFAT VISIT, PEACE

NC201242 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0952 GMT 20 Feb 83

[Text] Kuwait, 20 Feb (MENA) -- In an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN published today, President Husni Mubarak emphasizes that unless the Arabs act as one man, neither the United States nor the whole world will be able to resolve their issue for them. The president asks the Arabs to be realistic and to rise above their differences to spare the Palestinian cause ending up at an impasse.

The president also asks the PNC, which is convening in Algiers, to resort to reason and logic, to take the future of the Palestinian cause into account, to agree on a relationship with Jordan, and to exploit President Reagan's initiative before it is too late and before Israeli settlements cover the West Bank and face the Arabs with a new fait accompli.

The president expresses his belief that the Reagan initiative is the best thing that the Americans have come up with to this time. He says: Despite the fact that this initiative has its negative aspects, in addition to its positive aspects, and although it does not meet 100 percent of the demands of either the Arabs or Israel, it is imperative that we adhere to it and to its positive aspects and that we try to develop it and to limit its negative aspects.

In the interview President Husni Mubarak deals with a number of important Arab and international issues and with Egypt's attitude toward them. The president asserts that the Lebanese events are part of the Palestinian issue and that comprehensive peace signifies the departure of all the foreign forces from the whole of Lebanon, the resolution of the Palestinian issue, and Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories. About the Nonaligned Movement, President Mubarak asserts that Egypt is a nonaligned state, that Egypt deals with all states of the world on an equal footing, and that Egypt seeks to activate the movement's role in conjunction with India and Yugoslavia and with the movement's founding states. The president denies that the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force has a central or noncentral command in Egypt. With regard to the extension of an official invitation to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to visit Egypt, the president says that he welcomes 'Arafat at any time, and that if he wants us to discuss with him the future of the issue, then he is welcome.

The president also speaks on the domestic situation. He denies that the Cabinet will soon be reshuffled, but adds, however, that any minister whose actions become the object of litigation, then this minister will naturally be ousted. The president also emphasizes that Egypt scrupulously adheres to democracy, to the role of a constructive opposition, and to a free press.

President Mubarak affirms that the Americans have now begun to appreciate the gravity of the situation regarding both the Israeli forces' continued presence in Lebanon and the failure to resolve the Palestinian issue. He warns that unless the Arabs move together in unison, neither the United States nor the whole world will be able to solve the question for them. He adds: We must be realistic and logical and rise above differences. Unless we quickly unify our views, the Palestinian question will not achieve any results, because Israel is continuing the build settlements and insisting on building more. The United States denounced this and the U.S. initiative came as a result of serious discussions between us and the United States during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. Mubarak describes the initiative as the best one the Americans have proposed so far. The initiative has negative and positive aspects. It does not fulfill all the Arab or Israeli demands 100 percent, but we must hold to it and to its positive aspects and try to develop them and limit its negative aspects.

President Mubarak warns that the Arabs have only several months. If they fail to agree or if the Jordanians and Palestinians fail to agree on a relationship between them, what can the United States do for them? As a U.S. president told President as-Sadat in a message on the problem of Arab representation at the Geneva Conference, the Arab problem is more difficult than the Arab-Israeli problem. President Mubarak points out that the Palestinians' relationship with Jordan is important, so let them sit at they negotiations table before the U.S. elections, or else the whole of next year will be lost while the settlements will have covered the West Bank and the Arabs will have shrunk. We will be faced with a fait accompli.

President Mubarak asks: How long will it be before the Arabs come up with any moves toward any solution? He says: Unless the Arabs begin moving in March or April, the whole cause will be lost, because the settlements will continue and become facts and the conflict will be come so bitter that no one will be able to predict its extent. He said that in their current conditions, the Arabs do not promise any good. They are striking at one another. There is the problem of relations with Egypt, but are they in agreement among themselves? If they agree among themselves without Egypt, this will be good, but unfortunately they are in disagreement. How will they have any power in the United States, which can find a solution, while the Israelis are benefitting from Arab differences and the Jewish organizations and the Zionist lobby in the United States are in agreement and are stronger.

President Mubarak asserts that Egypt is exerting utmost efforts and that is policy is clear. He says that if Egypt had severed relations with Israel after the Beirut massacre, as certain people demanded, such a step would have helped Begin and saved him from his problem. Begin would have accused Egypt that its desire for peace was a tactical stand and not a strategic demand, and he would have found the justification to expel the Syrians, occupy all of Lebanon, strike at Syria, and everywhere turn the world into a massacre in order to look like great hero and even justify striking at Egypt. Mubarak rules out the idea that the invasion of Lebanon was aimed at provoking Egypt and changing its stand on peace. He says that many parties participated in that operation and, thus, all of them could have wanted to provoke Egypt. He affirms that Egypt uses reason and logic and does not act on emotions. He says that the term Camp David causes sensitivity among the Arabs, but aren't the solutions currently being offered similar to the second framework of the Camp David accords? Mubarak calls on the Arabs to find a solution to the Palestinian question under any name. He confirms that had Egypt not moved, it would not have regained Sinai or solved any problem.

Concerning Egypt's attitude toward the Nonaligned Movement, President Husni Mubarak asserts: When Egypt severs its relations with a big or a small state, Egypt does not take this action out of partiality. Egypt deals with all the states of the world on an equal footing -- and the time will come when relations will be restored with the Soviet Union.

The president notes that the special relations with the United States -- in view of the economic and military cooperation -- do not signify a U.S. military presence in Egypt. Just as Egypt has special relations with the United States, nonaligned India also has special relations with the Soviet Union -- economic and military.

President Mubarak also denies the existence of an alliance between Egypt and the United States -- just as no alliance existed previously with the Soviet Union. He says: Egypt is an independent and sovereign state that makes its own decisions without being influenced by any power. About the activation of the Nonaligned Movement, the president adds that Egypt was preoccupied with the issue of peace and with the October war and, before these things, with preparing the stage of operations. Egypt's role has been reactivated: This is because I have visited Yugoslavia and India -- founding states of the movement. He affirms that that nonalignment plays an efficacious role in ironing out some world issues, adding that this year this movement includes 109 states.

President Husni Mubarak denies that the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force has a central or noncentral command in Egypt. However, when an Arab or an Islamic state is endangered and asks for help, it is possible for us to give the United States facilities to help this state. However, this does not mean that there is even one foreign soldier in Egypt -- and we will not allow a military presence on Egyptian territory.

The president also denies that U.S. President Reagan has foisted the demand on him that the Egyptian ambassador return to Israel. He says: This is an Egyptian decision on which we will not ask anyone's permission. He announces that if the forces will agree on leaving Lebanon and if these forces will begin withdrawing, then the ambassador will return. Concerning the presence of the Israeli ambassador in Cairo, he says that the Israeli ambassador is like the other 120 embassies [as received], noting that all the Arab states have ambassadors in states in which there are Israeli ambassadors. Furthermore, the Arabs sit at the United Nations with the Israeli delegate, exactly as they do at the Security Council.

In connection with the separation of the autonomy negotiations from the fate of the Lebanese negotiations, the president says: It is the same issue. I elucidated to President Reagan that the Palestinians' exodus from Beirut was a grievous error and that it is imperative that the Palestinian issue be resolved first, so that the Palestinians will be able to live in their land.

The president asserts that Lebanese events are a part of the Palestinian issue and that comprehensive peace signifies the departure of all the foreign forces from Lebanon, the resolution of the Palestinian issue, and Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied territories.

Concerning Egypt's role in the normalization of U.S.-Iraqi relations, President Mubarak says that he has held talks with the United States on the Iraqi-Iranian conflict, adding that he has also talked about the danger that the continuation of the war poses to the area and to the Arabs' interests. The Americans fully understand this subject. However, he said that he cannot discuss the subject of the normalization of the Iraqi-U.S. relations, leaving that to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Asked about the stance toward Britain in view of its refusal to receive the PLO representative in the seven member committee, the president says that discussions are underway within the framework of the resolution of this subject, adding that the Arabs were to go to Britain had it not been for the occurrence of problems, which have nothing to do with this subject, that led to the postponement of the visit.

About the extension of an official invitation to Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, to visit Egypt, President Mubarak says that he welcomes 'Arafat at any time, and if 'Arafat wants us to discuss with him the future of the issue, then he is welcome. President Mubarak adds: We helped him to the extent of our ability when he was besieged in Beirut -- and nobody can deny this. During the war, our daily contacts were numerous and Egypt exerted its maximum efforts to help them during the Israeli invasion.

In response to a question about what the PLO would achieve through unilateral recognition of Israel, President Mubarak states that Israel does not want to recognize the PLO and that it is in Israel's interest to defer the discussions and to hamper the Reagan initiative until Israel completes building the settlements.

The president demands that the Arabs be alert. He says: When we demand that the United States hold a dialogue with the PLO, the United States then demands that the PLO recognize Israel.

The president calls upon the PNC that is meeting in Algiers to resort to reason and logic, to take the future of the issue into account, to agree among themselves on a relationship with Jordan before the opportunity passes, to take advantage of the Reagan initiative before it is too late, and to sit at the negotiating table so that it will be possible to freeze the settlements, because time is passing quickly.

President Husni Mubarak also deals with the domestic Egyptian situation in his interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN. He notes the need for increasing stability to ensure the sound course of development and to solve the economic problems.

In connection with the possibility of a Cabinet change [taghyir wizari], President Mubarak says: We deal with officials on the basis of the 5-year plan. We change those who do not discharge their duties. However, we reject change just for the sake of change.

The president denies that a Cabinet change will soon take place. Hwoever, he adds: Any minister whose actions become the object of litigation will naturally be ousted.

With regard to Egypt's debts, the president says that this subject has been exaggerated, because the whole world, with the exception of the oil states, is in debt. He notes that even the United States is indebted to one state for $55 billion.

President Mubarak denies that Egypt will limit its sons working abroad. He says: Egypt does not apply pressure on anyone to return Egyptian manpower, despite the fact that they excel in all fields and do not involve themselves in other states' policies or seek special political aims. He stresses that Egypt supports democracy and the role of a constructive opposition and a free press. He affirms that what is reported about corruption in Egypt is exagerrated and that corruption in Egypt is not comparable to what is happening in the rest of the world. Concluding, Mubarak says that the most important domestic problems preoccupying Egypt are production, housing, and public utilities and affirms that interest is focused on these problems.

TRIAL OF AL-JIHAD ORGANIZATION RESUMED

NC222110 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1734 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] Cairo, 22 Feb (MENA) -- The Supreme State Security Court, sitting under its president Counsellor 'Abd al-Ghaffar Muhammad Ahmad, today resumed its sessions to try the 302 defendants in the Al-Jihad organization case. The court completed hearing the testimony of former director of security in Asyut Major General Mahmud Yusuf 'Id and permitted the defense panel to interrogate him on his testimony.

At the end of the 9-hour session, the court decided to adjourn consideration of the case until Saturday, 26 February, to hear the statements of the other witnesses. The court demanded that the prosecution bring two videotapes. One shows some of the defendants training on weapons for the purpose of overthrowing the regime, and the second shows them buying weapons. The state security intelligence photographed the two tapes.

At the outset of today's session, the chief of the state security prosecution, Counsellor 'Abd as-Sami' Sharaf ad-Din, said that 13 defendants had refused to appear before the court and that 9 others had not attended because of illness.

The court then heard the testimony of the former director of security in Asyut, who said that immediately after the 'Id al-Adha prayers in 1981, he received a notification to the effect that some youths belonging to extremist religious groups had captured the security directorate's building in Asyut, seized the weapons and ammunition in it, and killed some police officers, men, and citizens.

The director added that he immediately communicated the incidents to the Interior Ministry and that the security forces immediately went to Asyut, put the situation in control, and restored security stability in the governorate.

The former director of security in Asyut pointed out that he had previous information about the names of leaders of some of the religious groups, who, it was discovered later, had committed these incidents.

FISHER STATEMENT AFTER MEETING MUBARAK

NC211234 Cairo MENA in English 1140 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Text] Cairo, Feb 21 (MENA) -- President Husni Mubarak received today head of the World Jewish Agency Max Fisher, currently visiting here.

Fisher said following the meeting that they exchanged views on Middle East conflict and issues pertaining to peace in the region. Fisher said he is fully convinced that President Mubarak is a genuine man of peace believing in the necessity of realising peace.

On topics discussed during the meeting, Fisher said they discussed several topics pertaining to peace in the Middle East. Fisher declined to comment on Israel's policy in Lebanon, Gaza Strip, and the West Bank, but said that his two-day visit to Egypt had been a great opportunity for sitting with President Mubarak and talking with him for more than an hour on various major issues. Fisher reiterated his conviction that President Mubarak worked for peace and this made peace between Egypt and Israel stand on sound grounds.

On whether he agreed with President Mubarak's policy in quest of peace, Fisher said he is convinced that the president means what he says.

SPOKESMAN DENIES DOWNING OF IRAQI WARPLANE

JN221148 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1125 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Feb (INA) -- An Iraqi military spokesman today dismissed Iranian claims that an Iraqi fighter plane was shot down this morning.

The spokesman, in a statement to INA, said that Iraqi fighter planes did not discharge any combat missions in the operational sectors today.

The Iranian Armed Forces Joint Staff claimed in a communique broadcast over the radio in Persian that an Iraqi fighter plane was downed at 1029 today.

COMMUNIQUE ON 22-23 FEB MILITARY OPERATIONS

JN231722 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Communique No 1,009 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 23 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The units of our victorious army continued their valiant activities in the operational theaters against the aggressor Khomeyni forces. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. Four were killed and one heavy machinegun and three positions were destroyed east of Basra.

2. One was killed and one observation post was destroyed in the central sector of the battlefield.

3. The artillery of the rancorous and criminal ruling clique in Iran intermittently shelled Ash-Shihabi and its outskirts, damaging some elementary schools.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 23 February 1983

SADDAM HUSAYN RECEIVES YUGOSLAVIA'S DRAGAN

JN231440 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1355 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Feb (INA) -- President Saddam Husayn received here today Zvone Dragan, vice president of the SFRY Federal Executive Council. Dragan conveyed to the president greetings from the Yugoslav president and wishes for progress and prosperity, stressing Yugoslavia's readiness to promote its relations with Iraq in various fields and activities.

President Saddam Husayn stressed the importance of continuing to promote bilateral relations in all fields in accordance with the bases on which they had been established.

The talks dealt with matters related to the seventh nonaligned summit due to be held in New Delhi on 7 March 1983 and the means to promote the effectiveness of the movement in the international sphere in the service of mankind.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and foreign minister; Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and trade minister; Khalid 'Abd al-Mun'im; head of the president's office; and the Yugoslav ambassador in Baghdad.

REPORT ON 23 FEB WEEKLY CABINET MEETING

NC232110 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Excerpt] The Cabinet ended its weekly session at 2015 today. After the session Cabinet acting Secretary General Shafiq Munayminah gave the following official report:

The Cabinet held an ordinary session at 1800 tonight under the chairmanship of President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil. Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and the ministers attended the session.

The president opened the session by speaking about the snow storm which hit Lebanon and inflicted a sudden catastrophe on it, as well as about the personal and official attention given to it by the officials and ministers concerned with expediting the rescue operations. He informed the Cabinet that an investigation committee has been formed of the Higher Judiciary Council chairman, the Civil Service Council chairman, and the head of the Central Investigation Authority to find out about any negligence that may have occured in dealing with the implications of the catastrophe.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan informed the Cabinet that the committee has promptly started its investigations, will complete them in 3 days, and will determine who is responsible for any negligence.

His excellency the president briefed the Cabinet on the current tripartite negotiations aimed at securing withdrawals from Lebanese territory.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan explained that Lebanon is awaiting the return of the U.S. presidential envoy, Ambassador Philip Habib, who will be able to give the necessary clarifications about the Isreali position.

Economy and Tourism Minister Ibrahim Halawah then reviewed the results of the meetings he attended in Baghdad and Cairo. He explained their positive effect on the reopening of markets to Lebanese products and the resumption of MEA flights between Beirut and Baghdad and the reactivation of the protocol of 1965 between Lebanon and Egypt related to the acceptance of Lebanese exports within the framework of a reciprocal policy.

18TH ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS BEGINS IN KHALDAH

NC240910 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0853 GMT 24 Feb 83

[Dispatch by the Information Ministry delegation in Khaldah -- live]

[Text] The 18th round of the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations started at 1030 with a plenary session -- which did not last more than 10 minutes -- during which the conferees agreed to begin immediately with the subcommittees' meetings as there were no subjects on the plenary session's agenda. The subcommittees' members moved to their respective rooms. The committee on security arrangements and withdrawals, the committee on ending the state of war, and the committee on mutual relations convened. However, the committee on possible guarantees, as in the past, did not convene.

Before the plenary session, the delegation heads made no statement. They all declined to talk to newsmen but said the weather was bad. In fact, the weather is bad in Khaldah and the 18th round of Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. negotiations is being held under these weather conditions.

AL-WAZZAN REVIEWS NEGOTIATIONS AT MEETING 23 FEB

NC231222 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan today chaired a meeting at the Republican Palace attended by Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim; Dr Antoine Fattal, head of the Lebanese delegation to the negotiations; former Ambassador Ghassan Tuwayni; and Dr Wadi' Haddad.

After the meeting, Al-Wazzan said: We are following up with our brother members of the Lebanese delegation the negotiations and everything they have reached on the points under discussion and the knots they are trying to untie. We are cooperating with them in untying them.

On the possibility of Philip Habib coming to Beirut, Prime Minister al-Wazzan said: There is nothing definite. The U.S. presidential envoy, Ambassador Philip Habib, was reportedly expected to arrive in Beirut this afternoon or tomorrow for consultations with Lebanese officials concerning the tripartite negotiations and for narrowing the differences over basic subjects preparatory to scheduling the withdrawals from Lebanon.

JORDANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN BEIRUT

NC240936 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 24 Feb 83

[Text] Jordanian Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim, accompanied by 'Ali Ghandur [Alia director], arrived in Beirut at 1030 today.

Al-Qasim said he is carrying a message from King Husayn to President al-Jumayyil on the Arab and international situations. He added: I will take this opportunity to convey his majesty the king's impressions on many matters of interest to the two countries.

Asked about Jordan's position on the negotiations, he said: The priority of Arab action at this time must be concentrated on giving all support and assistance to Lebanon to bring about the withdrawal of all foreign forces. He added: Lebanon is the victim of the last June's aggression. The Arab efforts must be mobilized. Jordan has been supporting and will continue to support Lebanon's efforts which are aimed at liberating its territory.

KHURI RECEIVES U.S. DEFENSE OFFICIAL 23 FEB

NC231048 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] Defense Minister 'Isam Khuri received Francis West, U.S. assistant defense secretary for international aid, and the working team accompanying him in his office at Al-Yarzi today. Khuri and West held a 45-minute round of talks which focused on the implementation of the U.S. aid program to the Lebanese Army in the fields of training and equipment.

West and his party then moved to the office of Army Commander General Tunnus and discussed the spheres of cooperation between the Lebanese Army and the Marine force operating within the multinational force.

Minister Khuri said after the meeting that West expressed his satisfaction with the progress of work and the deployment of the Army in the Beirut area. Minister Khuri seized the opportunity to thank the United States for its material and moral support to Lebanon.

NEW PLAN COMPLETED FOR FURTHER ARMY DEPLOYMENT

NC231748 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] According to information published by the CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY, a new military plan has been worked out for the deployment of the Army in three directions next month. The first direction is eastward up to Shtawrah, the second direction is southward up to Az-Zahrani and Sidon, and the third direction is northward up to the Al-Madfun Bridge. The plan notes the participation of the multinational force in this deployment operation.

According to the CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY, security sources expect the multinational force to be enlarged as follows: 9,000 U.S. soldiers, 6,000 French soldiers, and 4,000 Italian soldiers.

LEBANESE FRONT DISCUSSES SITUATION 23 FEB

NC231319 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Excerpts] The Lebanese Front held its weekly meeting this morning. Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil [Phalangist Party leader] described the meeting as extremely important, because it made it possible to discuss the situation in Lebanon in depth.

Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil added: There is no doubt that we feel in the present stage that the United States is taking a just and fair view of Lebanon, and it wants to assist it to end its ordeal.

Commenting on U.S. President Reagan's statement, he said: After the hard experience we have been through for 8 years and after all the promises we have heard, this time we want the U.S. promises to be in deeds. No one can bear the hardships suffered by Lebanon. The multinational force, which represents the United States, Italy, France, and Britain, was invited to restore security and stability in this country. It is inconceivable that this force would not be able to establish security and stability since it represents the greatest states of the world.

The Phalangist Party leader called on the Arabs to be rational and benefit from the lessons they have been through and to try to save Lebanon, the Palestinian issue, and the Arab issue.

Referring to the historic relations between Lebanon and Egypt in the light of [former] President Camille Sham'un's visit to Cairo, Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil affirmed that the Phoenician Lebanese maintained good relations with Egypt and the ties between the Lebanese and the Egyptians were profound and sincere.

Sham'un explained that he briefed the Lebanese Front on the results of his visit to Egypt and stressed the need to develop and restore normal relations between Lebanon and Egypt. He said Egypt has given proof of its readiness to cooperate with Lebanon by agreeing to go back to the economic agreement which existed between the two countries following Economy Minister Ibrahim Halawah's visit to Cairo.

JUNBLATT HOLDS NEWS CONFERENCE IN KUWAIT

LD231629 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1407 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 23 Feb (KUNA) -- Lebanese Socialist Progressive Party [PSP] leader Walid Junblatt said that democracy in Lebanon came to an end in 1975.

At a press conference he held today at the Hilton Hotel, he said that democracy had been hurt the worst by events at the beginning of 1975 by Lebanon and then in those events that followed.

He said that his party will consider surrendering arms when the Phalangist Party stands trial for high treason and when the Lebanese Forces stand trial for committing the massacres of Sabra and Shatila and other massacres; also when the PSP feels that the ruling regime is giving every Lebanese citizen a minimum of stability and reassurance and when there is rule by law. He added that his party will keep its weapons in the mountain for self-defense because he thinks that the leader of the Druze sect, as well as the head of the Palestinian revolution, is a target. The Phalangists are not in the mountain to protect the Lebanese at all, but to strike at the remnants of national and democratic resistance.

He added that his party will keep and increase its weaponry should circumstances demand, for as long as the weapons of the Phalangist Party are there and are on the increase.

He said that he is in Kuwait to discuss with Kuwait officials a role for Kuwait in resolving the Lebanese crisis. He denied that he had discussed any role for the Arab League or any other state in this respect. He said that Kuwait's knowledge of the Lebanese crisis is detailed and is combined with constant attention and well known efforts. He pointed out that this might help to reach desirable results through a settled diplomacy and policy. He declared that he attaches considerable hopes to the role of Kuwait. Mr Junblatt is not surprised at the campaign of persecution to which the Palestinians and the Lebanese are being exposed in the south of Lebanon. This, he said, is a part of a plan to rid the south of Lebanon of the Palestinian people through killing, terrorism, and detention. He accuses the Lebanese authority of bias in favor of the Phalangist Party.

Mr Junblatt said that his party favors a political solution in Lebanon, one based on the unity of Lebanon, on its Arab affiliation, on promoting its democratic system, and on carrying out a comprehensive political reform.

He said if the Phalangist Party agrees to these bases, his party will consider them.

He pointed out that the Phalangists are just one group. They do not represent all Christians and there is a well known national Christian line that has been defeated. He said that his dialogue with Raymond Iddih and Sulayman Franjiyah is continuing, and he described them as pillars of the national Christian movement.

Today's circumstances do not favor [solving] the Arab-Israeli conflict and the United States works only for its strategic, political, economic, and military interests. Anyone who thinks that the United States will meet the national aspirations of the Lebanese and the Palestinians is imagining things. He expressed the conviction that it is the United States that has caused the war in Lebanon and which will continue to do so, in order to achieve a settlement that will be in its interest and not in the interest of Lebanon or the Arab world. He hoped that Israel will unconditonally withdraw from the south of Lebanon, and this is the concern of the mission of U.S. envoy Philip Habib.

He said Israel's excuse for invading Lebanon, to ensure the security of Galilee, is feeble. The matter is far greater than that.

It is connected with the joint American [-Israeli] strategy. He added that the security of Israel can be achieved when security in Lebanon is achieved through the UN forces and the Lebanese Army, and when it is possible to negotiate on the presence of Syrian forces in order to end their role there. As for the presence of the Palestinian resistance, we must remember that there are agreements through which we act, either after new agreements or in accordance with the present agreements. This matter, he said, concerns the PLO and the Lebanese Government. He said the multi-national force experiment in Beirut does not give the Lebanese citizen sufficient security and assurance so far. Everybody knows how these forces suddenly withdrew last summer and caused the massacres of Sabra and Shatila, and then suddenly returned. He said that he prefers the matter to be wider and more comprehensive -- through the United Nations. He added that some international bodies, such as the United States and Israel, rejected the Soviet Union's participation in any solution in the region.

Referring to the circumstances of alliance between parties of the national forces in Lebanon, he said that as a result of the occupation, he agrees with some of his allies on freezing the past formulas of the National Movement, pointing out that some parties had disappeared as a result of occupation. He denied that he has decided to live outside Lebanon in response to warnings from the leadership of the party [PSP]. He said he went to Amman, then to Lebanon, then to Saudi Arabia, and he will return to Lebanon. Referring to the Israeli-Lebanese negotiations, he said that these negotiations are carried out in various secret and public channels and levels, and that he has not received the latest developments in that regard. Mr Junblatt did not comment on the resolutions of the Palestine National Council in Algiers because he has not studied them yet. But, he said that the important thing is what the cause shall achieve and gain [words indistinct].

PROSECUTER BANS ACTIONS DISTURBING SECURITY

NC231118 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] In addition to the army command's communique, the military court's government prosecuter has issued the following warning to the citizens and all those residing on Lebanese territory:

The carrying of any slogan, flag, or any other symbols is prohibited if such action could lead to opposition between one group of people and another and could disturb public order in any way.

The delivery of speeches, songs, and shouts calling for disturbances is prohibited. The dissemination of false news or the broadcast of such news liable to arouse public opinion is prohibited. The writing, publication, distribution, or carrying of articles or banners which are considered as disturbing security is prohibited.

Therefore, we request that banners and slogans be removed and that the airing of songs which contravene the law be stopped within 24 hours of the publication of this statement or else those responsible will be referred to military courts and punished under the laws in force.

'UBAYD RETURNS FROM DAMASCUS, BRIEFS AL-JUMAYYIL

NC231542 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] Jean 'Ubayd returned from Damascus this morning after holding contacts with senior Syrian officials. Soon after his return, he went to meet with President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil and briefed him on the progress of the talks.

AL-KASM REASSERTS SYRIA'S STEADFASTNESS

JN221734 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Excerpts] This morning Prime Minister 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm opened the general conference of the Syrian Engineers Union which is being held under the slogan: "The Engineers are the builders of progress and socialism." The conference will last 3 days.

Addressing the confesees Prime Minister al-Kasm discussed the plots and designs aimed against our country's steadfastness in order to serve the aggressive Zionist-U.S. objectives in the region. He emphasized that in its capacity as the stronghold of steadfastness and confrontation, Syria has faced and foiled the attempts to peddle the aggressive U.S. designs to spread As-Sadat's treason in the Arab land. The prime minister stressed that Lebanon's war was actually aimed at Syria in an attempt to deal a blow to this country and that revolutionary Syria had faced the Zionist occupation forces. He added that for the first time Syria fought alone while others tried to defame Syria's stand and belittle its great sacrifices.

Al-Kasm added that Lebanon's war was a military one in which Israel used very sophisticated U.S.-made weapons against the Syrian Arab forces. It was also an economic and informational war against Syria. He stressed that under the wise leadership of militant Comrade President Hafiz al-Asad this battle was fought with unprecedented courage and wisdom. The Israelis failed to achieve their objectives.

The Fes summit was held following the war in Lebanon, he said, and Syria went to Fes in order to prevent any concessions. Syria succeeded in saving the conference from being trapped into vicious predetermined plans. Although the Fes resolutions represent the minimum of our demands, no action was taken to abide by these resolutions. An example of this is the bilateral and tripartite meeting held secretly to undermine these resolutions under the claims of alleged realism which actually means surrender. He stressed that despite all betrayals, our faith in the one Arab nation will remain strong and firm and we will continue to extend our hands to all Arab countries until the achievement of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's slogan, namely the achievement of the comprehensive Arab unity.

Al-Kasm said that we are lying in wait for all those trying to plot against or relinquish the Arab cause. If some here or there are talking about the independence of decisionmaking, we say that we support any independent Arab decisionmaking provided that it is not at the expense of the decision's nationalism or its loyalty to the Arab cause. He said that we in Syria are working hard to free the Arab will from any foreign pressures, influence, and powers. The freedom of the Arab will certainly lead to the liberation of the Arab nation, its unity, and victory in the various raging battles.

REAGAN'S GUARANTEES FOR ISRAEL CRITICIZED

Damascus Commentary

JN231550 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] U.S. President Ronald Reagan has once again spoken about the Middle East. President Reagan has give so many speeches on the Middle East that they should be recorded by an interested party in a special book to occasionaly trace the contents, contradictions, fulfilled and unfulfilled promises. President Reagan's most important speech on the Middle East since he came to power was the plan, which he proposed on 1 September 1982, to solve the region's crisis, which has become known as the Reagan plan. The widely publicized plan, irrespective of its usefulness or lack of it, has had absolutely no effect because the party that occupies land, usurps rights, and defies the UN Charter, Israel, has rejected this plan. It was badly ridiculed by Prime Minister Menahem Begin.

Thus, the Reagan plan has remained a proposal that applies only to the Arabs, asking them to make more and more concessions in land, rights, and the just peace and its irreplaceable conditions. Despite adamant Israeli rejection of the Reagan plan, the United States directed its pressure not against Israel but against some Arab parties to drag them into negotiations that would not contradict the U.S. position, which is characterized by a hostility to the Arab legitimate rights. A deviation from UN resolutions, and the conditions of just peace. This position has the following characteristics: First, it refuses to recognize the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. Second, it rejects the idea of a complete and unconditional Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied in 1967. Third, it refuses to recognize the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Fourth, it rejects the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on Palestinian land. Fifth, it freezes the UN and USSR roles in peace efforts and guaranteeing peace.

Egypt's As-Sadat tried U.S. proposals, plans, and designs and that experience has led to the current conditions between Egypt and Israel. Reagan's plan, according to U.S. commentators, is at the best of times a new version of Camp David which was rejected by the Arabs by binding resolutions at the Baghdad and Tunis summits. In return for the concessions which the United States is asking the Arabs to make unilaterally, it offers the Arabs only U.S. hegemony and Israeli economic, political, and military domination. Even in Lebanon, where matters are crystal clear and need no further clarification, the United States did not fulfill its promises. Furthermore, it rewarded the Israeli invaders by greatly increasing its annual aid and enabled Israel to use the invasion and occupation to pressure Lebanon and the Arabs to blackmail them into making concessions.

Today, as President Reagan calls on Israel to withdraw its forces from Lebanon in return for U.S. a guarantee for the security of its northern borders, one cannot help but wonder what borders Reagan means because Israel has not yet defined any borders and has not disclosed the limits of its ambitions in other countries' territories. Does the United States want to define Israel's borders? Does it recognize the resolution to partition Palestine? Or does it agree with the view held by some Israeli officials that Israel's borders are where its forces are? Does Israel, the country that has carried out aggressive wars and has expanded continuously in other people's land since 1948, need guarantees for its borders and security? Does Israel need guarantees when it annexed and is annexing occupied territories transforming its geographic and demographic nature? Does Israel need guarantees while it defies the United Nations and its resolutions?

What about the borders and security of others? President Reagan's new statements reaffirm that the United States has a one-sided view of things and that its position on all Middle East issues stem from a complete bias toward Israel. Otherwise, how can President Reagan allow himself to equate the Israeli forces in Lebanon -- whose hands are covered with the blood of the innocent, Lebanon's independence, sovereignty, and unity -- with the Syrian forces which entered Lebanon in response to an official Lebanese request, a popular insistence, and with Arab approval? President Reagan also knows that Syria has affirmed to fraternal Lebanon that the Syrian forces will withdraw from Lebanon as soon as the Israeli invaders leave and that there are no problems between the two fraternal countries in this regard.

Any one who wants to help achieve a just and permanent peace in the region cannot be completely biased toward the invaders and occupiers and cannot disregard the rights of nations to self-determination and exercise of their sovereignty and independence. The measure of loyalty to the Middle East peace issue is a measure of loyalty to the idea of the withdrawal of Israeli forces from all occupied Arab territories and the recognition of the national rights of the Palestinian people including their right to self-determination, the establishment of their national state and return to their homeland. From the premise of this measure of loyalty, the proposals of Reagan's plan and his statements will be futile.

AL-BA'TH Commentary

JN231028 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 23 Feb 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Beware of the Game of Negotiations," the newspaper AL-BA'TH comments on President Reagan's speech on guaranteeing the so-called Israeli northern border. The paper sheds light on the current moves and conspiracies, especially after Reagan, in his speech, called on the Arab states to support King Husayn's efforts to form a unified Jordanian-Palestinian delegation for talks with Israel on the West Bank and Gaza.

AL-BA'TH says: In the course of the moves, meetings, and contacts being held between the Camp Daivd partners and some Arab sides, it has become clear that the Reagan administration is exerting pressure to initiate talks between Israel and a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation without offering a commitment to end the occupation of Arab territories.

What concerns Washington now is Palestinian participation in the game of negotiations, but what then? We will not go into details. Instead, we will recall what happened to Arab Egypt and what is happening in Khaldah and Qiryat Shemona. By mere quick reading or recent history, people will realize what it would mean if the Palestinians enter the game of negotiations according to the U.S.-Israeli style.

AL-BA'TH concludes: The United States wants to end the Arab-Zionist conflict primarily in the interest of Israel and then in favor of its policy and interests in the Arab homeland. Therefore, we call on all sincere sides in our nation to cooperate with Syria to confront the new U.S.-reactionary plot which is aimed against our entire homeland.

ISKANDAR ON ISRAELI CONCENTRATIONS, WAR THREAT

PM221637 Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 17 Feb 83 p 1

[Hisham Milhim report: "War Between Syria and Israel Inevitable"]

[Text] Damascus -- In an exclusive interview with 'UKAZ in Damascus, Syrian Information Minister and Ahmad Iskandar has affirmed that there is a great possibility of a war breaking out between Syria and Israel in view of the fact that the Israel officials have repeatedly paved the way for a possible Israeli attack on Syrian territory.

He said that Syria has taken every precaution to repulse any Israeli aggression at any time. He also indicated that Israel has concentrated massive troops in Al-Biqa' and other Lebanese areas close to the Syrian borders.

He emphasized that Israel's main target is the destruction of the new Syrian missiles over which there has been much clamor in Washington and Tel Aviv.

Referring to Syria's position on Lebanon, Iskandar said that the Syrian Government supports the Lebanese legitimate authority and that it supported the election of President Amin al-Jumayyil from the very beginning.

Meanwhile, 'UKAZ has learned from Arab and Syrian sources in Damascus that a part of Syria's military reservists has been called up and that all positions have been equipped for an inevitable battle with the Israelis.

COMMUNIST PARTY STATEMENT ON U.S.-ISRAELI PLANS

JN211908 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Text] The Syrian Communist Party has affirmed that the main objective of the aggressive imperialist-Israeli plan is to try to destroy Syria and prevent it from continuing its anti-imperialist national line. This came in a statement issued by the party's Central Committee at a recent urgent meeting to discuss the situation surrounding Syria in light of Israeli-U.S. threats.

The statement explained that the main factors which prevented the implementation of the imperialist-Israeli plans in the region are primarily Syria's steadfastness and courageous stand against these plans, such as the Reagan plan, and the rehabilitation of the Mubarak regime and its firm stand against all that threatens Lebanon's security and sovereignty, including Israel's attempts to set up permanent military bases under the name of early-warning stations.

The statement said that the U.S. instigation campaign is still continuing and mounting daily, telling lies about Syria's patriotic line and distorting its anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist substance. The statement affirmed that the foiling of the plan of the premediated imperialist-Zionist aggression against Syria is essentially a national task and a great contribution toward protecting the Arab national liberation movement and the right of self-determination for the Palestinian Arab people. At the same time, it is a contribution toward protecting world peace.

The Syrian Communist Party statement pointed out that Syria is not alone in our national battle. It is backed by the masses of the people and progressive and nationalist forces everywhere in the Arab homeland. It is also backed by the Palestinian resistance groups. Syria is also backed by the world liberated and progressive forces, headed by the friendly USSR.

ALGERIA'S STAND REPORTEDLY 'EMBITTERS' GOVERNMENT

GF221710 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 21 Feb 83 pp 1, 22

[Khalil Baydhun report]

[Text] AL-ANBA' has learned from informed Arab sources that 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister, informed the Syrian People's Assembly in a closed session that Syria feels embittered toward Algeria's stand on the steadfastness and confrontation front and its refusal to participate in the Syrian-Libyan-Iranian meetings which were held in Damascus and which resulted in the published tripartite statement.

The sources, which asked that their names not to be disclosed, said Khaddam remarks came in response to the request of the People's Assembly which had asked to be briefed about current Arab events, Khaddam told the Assembly that the steadfastness and confrontation front has been frozen for more than 1 year and this situation has intensified since the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

The sources added that the Syrian deputy prime minister affirmed to the Assembly the Syrian Government's announced stand on the Iraqi-Iranian war and that this stand would continue in view of what was stated in the tripartite Damascus statement.

Regarding Syria's relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Khaddam told the council that Syria has good relations with Saudi Arabia but refuses to allow any party to impose its policy on it, whether on Arab or international levels, and thus Syria's policy would not be affected by Saudi Arabia's mediation to end the dispute with Iraq.

The sources said Khaddam emphasized to the assembly that Syria will not be easy on any Palestinian revolution faction that tries to be skeptical over the Syrian stand on the conflict with Israel and over the Syrian forces' confrontation of the Israeli invasion of Labanon. Some factions and some leaders have resorted to this to cover up the fact that they did not confront this invasion, and this is something which Syria does not accept, Khaddam said.

ASSEMBLY SPEAKER RECEIVES IRANIAN DELEGATION

JN192000 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 19 Feb 83

[Text] Mahmud az-Zu'bi, speaker of the Syrian People's Assembly, met here today with the Iranian Majlis delegation led by Fazel Harandi and discussed bilateral relations, especially in the parliamentary filed, and the joint aims of the two countries.

Harandi praised Syria's honorable stands and affirmed this country's support for the Arab people's struggle to liberate their occupied territories and restore the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. The two sides stressed the need to strengthen bilateral relations of struggle to confront imperialism, Zionism, and reactionaries and continue their battles for freedom and progress.

Majlis Deputy on Bilateral Relations

LD201358 Tehran IRNA in English 0923 GMT 20 Feb 83

[Text] Damascus, Feb. 20, IRNA -- Fazel Harandi, a Majlis deputy said here Saturday that since the ruling systems in the Islamic Republic of Iran and Syria have understood each other, therefore there was no obstacle on the way of further expansion of bilateral relations. He added that at present the Islamic Republic had established the best foreign ties with Syria.

Speaking at the conclusion of his visit to Syria at the head of a delegation on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution, Harandi referred to the situation in Lebanon, adding that Lebanese people were a reserve force for the army of Islam.

He stressed that Lebanese people were completely separate from their government, which was imposed on them by the U.S.

Biqa's profile was similar to that of the Islamic revolution of Iran and its inhabitants not only supported Imam Khomeyni and the Islamic Revolution but considered themselves followers of the Imam as well as being revolutionary and Iranian, Harandi added. He said that the mission Saddam fulfilled in southern city of Hovayzeh in Iran upon the U.S. instructions, Zionists did the same in Sabra and Shatila camps sacrificing a large number of innocent people.

Referring to his meeting with the grand mufti of Syria, Harandi said that the former at the beginning called for holding negotiations to put an end to the Iraqi imposed war but later, when he was briefed on all issues, he affirmed Iran's stance for the continuation of the war until the achievement of final victory.

Harandi also met and conferred with the head of the Syrian people's parliament who stressed on the exchange of visits between officials of the two countries and called for further expansion of mutual relations.

KNESSET APPROVES ARENS, 'ARGUES' OVER SHARON

TA231543 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Report from Knesset by Gil'ad Mishori -- recorded]

[Text] The Knesset today approved the appointment of Professor Arens as the defense minister in the Israeli Cabinet less than 24 hours following the approval of the appointment by the Cabinet in its special session yesterday. It seems that Professor Arens personally did not serve as a focus for interfactional arguments. Most of the speakers noted the good manners of Professor Arens during his terms as chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee and as Israel's ambassador to Washington. The one who was the focus of the argument was former Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon -- his staying in the Cabinet and his inclusion on the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs.

The opposition members attacked this move, saying that Arens will be unable to function under such circumstances. Coalition Knesset members responded by saying that Ari'el Sharon is one of the few whose qualifications in security matters must be at the government's disposal. The Alignment members said: If the Arens appointment does not herald a change in policy, this appointment should then be ruled out. In contrast, the promise made by the coalition is that the policy is the government's, and its will not change in the wake of the reshuffle.

In the vote, all attending coalition members, without exception, voted in favor of approving the government announcement; all the Alignment and Hadash Knesset members voted against, while the Shinuy faction abstained.

ARENS ON SYRIAN MISSILES, RELATIONS WITH SHARON

TA231648 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 23 Feb 83 pp 1, 15

[Report by Jack Nelson of THE LOS ANGELES TIMES, from Washington by Refa'el Mann, and from Paris by Tamar Golan]

[Excerpts] Defense Minister-designate Professor Moshe Arens yesterday warned that Israel may launch a preemptive offensive against Syria, if Israel should be faced with the "danger of annihilation" from that country. He was interviewed by THE LOS ANGELES TIMES, and the interview appeared this morning.

Arens is to meet today with U.S. President Ronald Reagan at the White House for a brief departure talk. The president's timetable allows 15 minutes for the meeting. It was originally scheduled for a later date, but has been advanced in order to allow Arens to leave for Israel at once and assume the post of defense minister, following the Cabinet's reolution last night.

In his interview with THE LOS ANGELES TIMES, Arens said that the stationing of missiles in Syria is "a near desperate" Soviet move aimed at trying to retrieve the influence it had in the Middle East. "Although Israel is still swallowing the stationing of the highly powerful antiaircraft missiles, this is a disconcerting factor and a mistaken Soviet step," he said.

In response to a question on whether he might contemplate a counterattack against Syria if it continues to station missiles, the defense minister-designate said: "I believe you understand that a country like Israel, which is faced with such a large arsenal of arms and military forces, whose very existence depends on all kinds of military conflicts, may in the future -- as it did in the past -- launch some sort of preemptive offensive, like the one in 1974 [into Lebanon] if it should feel that it is encountering the danger of extinction,"

MA'ARIV Paris correspondent Tamar Golan reports:

Interviewed on French television yesterday, Professor Arens said that his predecessor, Ari'el Sharon, "will not have any authority whatsoever vis-a-vis the IDF command echelon." Nonetheless, Arens emphasized that he and Sharon "have been friends for many years," adding that "he admires many things Sharon did as a general and IDF commander."

"I am sure Sharon will give me advice when I need it, and I believe I will approach him when in need of such advice," Arens said.

Arens refused to be called a "hawk," even though he declared he would take care of Israel's security "uncompromisingly." "I am a realist, who may be a bit conservative when involved in undertaking risks in relation to Israel's security," he said.

REPORT ON ARENS' WHITE HOUSE MEETINGS 23 FEB

TA231927 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] A short while ago, U.S. President Ronald Reagan bade farewell to the Isareli defense minister-designate, Moshe Arens. He turned to Moshe Arens and told him in Hebrew: Mazal tov [good luck]. Our correspondent in Washington reports that the two met for a short talk and discussed, among other things, the situation created in the Middle East by the stationing of SAM-5's in Syria, and the increase in Soviet involvement in the region. Following is a report from Washington by our correspondent there, Elimelekh Ram:

[Begin Ram videotape] The meeting was organized at the last moment and advanced, at Professor Arens' request, from tomorrow to today. In a troubling rain, the correspondents were waiting at the front of the White House and the television camera men were not allowed to photograph the meeting between the two.

There is no doubt today on this point: The U.S. Administration demonstates appreciation and friendship toward Israel's new defense minister. It also transpires that the U.S. Administration is sobering up from the illusion that Moshe Arens' appointment may change Israel's position; and is tensely awaiting King Husayn's reply which is supposed to be given next week about his readiness to join the peace process according to Reagan's initiative.

What was discussed during the meeting, which lasted about 15 minutes? The Israeli ambassador defined the talk as friendly, but this is nothing new. It has been learned that the participants raised the issue of U.S. guarantees for Israel's northern border after the IDF's exit from Lebanon. Incidentally, this matter was clarified by the White House spokesman last night: The President does not intend to put the burden of this on the U.S. Army; the task of safeguarding the border will be imposed on the multinational force.

Thus, Moshe Arens' year of service as ambassador in Washington is rapidly coming to an end. Tomorrow, he will leave for Israel. On the coming Sunday he will take part in the Cabinet meeting, and on the next day he will chair the weekly meeting of the army's general headquarters. [end videotape]

SHAMIR COMMENTS ON REAGAN OFFER OF GUARANTEES

TA231403 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1340 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Excerpts] Jerusalem, 23 Feb (ITIM) -- "We are grateful for the readiness and generosity shown by the President of the United States to provide guarantees for Israel's security along its northern border.

"They could help, but cannot be a substitute for an agreement with Lebanon, with which we will have to maintain security in that very region," Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said today in an appearance before a meeting of the World Conference of Jewish Veterans held in Jerusalem.

The foreign minister pointed out that the U.S. guarantees "cannot come in lieu of security arrangements on the ground, over an area stretching 40 to 50 km from our border with Lebanon." These security arrangements will be founded on an agreement between Israel and Lebanon which will guarantee close and real daily cooperation between the two countries' armies.

Mr Shamir said that Israel is interested in a speedy withdrawal from Lebanon. "We do not have to have our soldiers stationed in the snowy hills of Lebanon, or on the roads between Beirut and Damascus and Tyre," the minister emphasized, adding that Israel will withdraw from that country quickly "if its demands for security arrangements that will preclude the return of the PLO to the area are also heeded quickly."

Yitzhaq Shamir noted the right of Jews to reside in all parts of Eretz Yisra'el and said that although one could argue about the political question in regard to the areas of Nabulus and Hebron, what is not arguable is the right of Jews to live in those regions.

Addressing the veteran Jewish soldiers, the foreign minister asked them to support Israel's information campaign in their respective countries, and to present it "not as a Goliath, but as a small nation that strives with all its might to reach a life of peace and honor."

'NO REAL PROGRESS' IN LEBANON; NEW U.S. ENOVY

TA231216 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] Minister Shamir met with U.S. envoy Philip Habib this morning. Habib is going to Beirut today after his stay here. There is no real progress, our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer says and this, Shim'on, is in contrast to the optimistic reports we have heard recently.

[Schiffer -- live in the studio] It really was quite embarrassing, the round of talks that Habib held here this time, and political sources have simply wondered what, in fact, he did here. He spent several days here in Jerusalem as the U.S. President's envoy, the highest post, and waited for the results of the talks in Netanya, waited for the results of the talks in Khaldah, and the people discussing did indeed discuss, and all the time they said that there was progress on this or that clause, but Israel and Lebanon still disagree over the basic questions of the arrangements. Israel is demanding [tova'at] full normalization of relations. Israel is demanding security arrangements that will guarantee that the northern border will not be what it was earlier. As part of these security arrangements, Israel is still speaking of observation points in Lebanon, that is, of a certain Israeli presence in Lebanon. Israel is still rejecting the presence of UNIFIL or any other force in the security zones. Still, they are speaking about progress. Right, there is progress on the clause of a stop to the state of belligerency and there is progress on this or that clause in the field of normalization, but there is still no progress on the basic issues. And as Habib sat here, he did not meet with the prime minister during the time he was here and now he is going to Beirut. No one in the political circles understands the system that the United States has chosen to conduct the negotiations and what the President's envoy is doing here. The main problem is that the United States still does not even have a sign of Syria's willingness, for example, to leave Lebanon which is certainly a condition absolutely essential for an Israeli departure.

Political sources also say that Israel and Lebanon may reach some sort of an agreement within a month or some sort of a document about an arrangement between them and will stick with the arrangement. If Syria and the PLO do not leave Lebanon, there is no value to that arrangement. The Americans explain that if they have a paper on an arrangement between Israel and Lebanon, Habib will be able to travel around the Arab world and say: Here, I have reached an arrangement, please remove the Syrians and the PLO. In the meantime, he has nothing.

[Studio commentator] On another matter, another matter altogether, involving the Foreign Ministry, the appointment of the heir to Moshe Arens' post, the ambassador to Paris, Me'ire Rosenne, is being mentioned as the almost certain candidate.

[Schiffer] The almost certain candidate at this moment, from an examination I have made over the last 24 hours, really is Me'ir Rosenne, Israel's ambassador to France. He is a well-known personality and very well liked by the prime minister. He served the prime minister as legal adviser at Camp David and it is important for the prime minister to stress, especially in the near future in Israel's relations with the United States, the validity of the Camp David agreement. Me'ir Rosenne will be the most authoritative interpreter of those agreements. And, after all, it is on the basis of the adherence to Camp David agreements that Israel is rejecting the new interpretation that the United States is now giving them. Me'ir Rosenne has also been clever enough, over the last year, in his reports -- this is what Foreign Ministry sources are saying -- to win the heart of the prime minister and the foreign minister. He has also been in the habit of reporting to Jerusalem not only on issues connected with Israeli-French relations, but he has also been in the habit of giving advice in other fields and he is now the Foreign Ministry candidate also preferred by Minister Shamir and the prime minister. It is certainly likely that in the shortest possible time he will be appointed to that post.

BEGIN COMMENTS ON LEBANON, AUTONOMY, SCHARANSKIY

TA232058 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2045 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] Jerusalem, 23 Feb (ITIM) -- This evening Prime Minister Begin energetically rejected any proposal for guarantees to Israel's security on the Lebanese border, saying that "there are no guarantees to safeguard the guarantees." He stated that arrangements which will be acceptable to all parties concerned will be the most efficient security measures.

Mr Begin was talking at the concluding session of the World Conference of Jewish Veterans, fighters of World War I and World War II, in Binyane Ha'uma in Jerusalem, at the end of 4 days of deliberations.

Mr Begin mentioned the fact that Jerusalem was not included in the Camp David accords, emphasizing that Jerusalem will remain unified and under Israeli sovereignty only, since it cannot be under the rule of two different authorities.

In his remarks, the prime minister juxtaposed the Palestinian Charter, which calls for the annihilation of the State of Israel and the liquidation of Zionism on the one hand, and on the other, the document of autonomy for the Arabs of the territories, which Israel proposes and which grants them the full right of self-government in daily life, and in a democratic and free manner. Mr Begin said that these two documents symbolize a denial of a right on the one hand, as compared to granting a right on the other, destruction versus creation, denial versus a grant.

Opening his remarks, the prime minister expressed the hope that recent reports about the possibility that prisoner of Zion Anatoliy Scharanskiy will be released will indeed materialize soon. He called on the Soviet authorities to also release other Jewish prisoners of Zion jailed in the Soviet Union.

More on Begin's Remarks

TA240710 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 24 Feb 83

[Text] Prime Minister Begin has rejected the idea of security guarantees for Israel's border with Lebanon as offered this week by President Reagan. The prime minister was speaking last night in Jerusalem at the closing session of the convention of Jewish war veterans. Harley Brademan reports:

[Begin recording] [Brademan] Prime Minister Begin says Israel did not want any Lebanese territory.

[Begin] Now, what do we want? That this bloodshed be not repeated and, therefore, we don't want so-called security guarantees. We don't want guarantees. May I tell you, in accordance with the experience of our generation -- more perhaps than other generations -- there is no guarantee that can guarantee a guarantee. [applause] What we ask for is security arrangements, not guarantees.

[Brademan] Referring to the Palestine National Council [PNC] meeting in Algiers, Begin said the PLO had not changed its aim of eliminating Israel or given up any of its basic tenets.

[Begin] Remember, when an enemy of the Jews says that he wants to destroy them, believe him. Take his word seriously. This is his design, he wants to achieve it. If you take it seriously, don't discard it off, don't try to forget it or ask other people not to remember it, then you will prevent him from carrying out his design and our people will live for all generations to come.

[Brademan] Begin said Israel stood by its autonomy plan which would give the Palestinians control of all the functions of daily life. He called on King Husayn and the Palestinians who were not PLO members to join the peace talks but stressed that Israel would never agree to a Palestinian state because it was a peril to our very existence. [end recording]

Prime Minister Begin also made an appeal to the leaders of the Soviet Union to free prisoner of Zion Anatoliy Scharanskiy and the rest of the Jewish prisoners. He called this week's TASS dispatch which indicated Scharanskiy's sentence might be reduced a ray of hope.

RABIN SAYS LIKUD, ALIGNMENT CLOSER ON LEBANON

TA232011 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] MK Yitzhaq Rabin says that regarding Lebanon, the gap between the positions of the Likud and the Alignment has been closed somewhat after the Cabinet found out that its concept had failed and that it is impossible to attain far-reaching political objectives in Lebanon. Addressing a conference of IDF employees in Haifa, Yitzhaq Rabin said three targets should now be aspired to: an agreement between Israel and Lebanon over effective security arrangements in southern Lebanon; a joint statement on ending the state of belligerence; and achieving a simultaneous withdrawal of the IDF, the Syrian Army, and the PLO.

DAVAR COMMENTARY ASSESSES PNC RESOLUTIONS

TA231612 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 23 Feb 83 p 1

[Commentary by Dan Avidan: "An Important Milestone on the Road of the PLO"]

[Text] The resolutions of the 16th session of the Palestine National Council [PNC] constitute an important milestone on the PLO's road. These resolutions can now bring about a practical shift in the organization's policy and bring it closer, perhaps indirectly, to joining the region's political process.

This was the first time in the history of the PNC that 'Arafat has succeeded in getting the PLO to adopt a political plan for settling the Middle East. This is the Fes summit plan, which basically calls for Israeli withdrawal to the 1967 borders, the establishment of a Palestinian state and the UN Security Council's agreeing to guarantee the security of the region's states. At the same time, no resolution was passed on President Reagan's initiative, which in practical terms means leaving an opening for advancing political negotiations in the region.

The council's resolutions without a doubt strengthened 'Arafat's position in the PLO leadership. The resolutions gave expression to the pragmatic line accepted by 'Arafat, particularly since the terrorists were uprooted from Lebanon and the U.S. plan for solving the problem of the territories was released.

Also, the council's resolutions about the "special ties" between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples -- which must be developed into confederative links between an independent Palestinian state and Jordan -- and the fact that the personal composition of the PLO's Executive Committee (which contains a majority of 'Arafat's supporters) remained unchanged, attest to 'Arafat's strengthening in the leadership, since they reflect his views concerning the necessity of strengthening ties between the PLO and Jordan.

Most of the criticism against the formulation of the council's closing resolutions was voiced by the heads of the radical organizations. These leaders feared not only the ideological shift stemming from adopting the political line as the PLO's principal path of action; but mainly the possibility that 'Arafat is liable to translate the adoption of the Fes summit resolutions as empowering him to authorize King Husayn to talk with the Americans about a Palestinian-Jordanian delegation's joining the political negotations on the territories' future.

It seems that the present council's resolutions neither implicitly nor explicitly authorize Husayn to join the political negotiations in any way. However, it is likely that the radical organizations' fear that 'Arafat will exploit the council's resolutions to enable Husayn to enter the political process, apparently with representatives from the territories, is based on correct information and assessments concerning 'Arafat's practical intentions.

As a result, the way in which 'Arafat himself now interprets the mandate he has received from the PNC to further the PLO's political activity is of decisive importance. This is especially true in view of the reservations and restraints which the radical organizations put in his path during the final stages of the resolutions' drafting, mainly regarding the meaning 'Arafat is likely to give to the Fes plan's adoption, and to continuing the cooperation with Husayn as a means of promoting President Reagan's initiative.

The test of this is expected to occur at 'Arafat's meeting with Husayn next month.

The chief question that will then be on the agenda is: Will the Jordanian king regard the practical interpretation 'Arafat gives the PNC's resolutions a "green light" from the PLO for him to join the political negotiations on the basis of the Reagan plan.

'SOURCES' SAY AL-ASAD TO MEET HABIB ON WITHDRAWAL

TA240624 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Feb 83 p 1

[AP report]

[Excerpt] Damascus (AP) -- Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad agreed to meet U.S. presidential envoy Philip Habib when the American Middle East troubleshooter visits Damascus, reliable sources here said yesterday.

Word about Al-Asad's change of mind was sent to Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil, who is expected to hold a fresh round of consultations with Habib soon on efforts to ensure a withdrawal of foreign armies from Lebanon, the sources said.

The sources said Al-Jumayyil's emissary, Jean Ubayo, has been told that the Syrian Government is willing to receive Habib and Al-Asad will meet him this time if he comes to Syria.

'Ubayd returned to Lebanon after two days of talks in Damascus to convey the Syrian decision.

The sources said Al-Asad has been unwilling to receive Habib since Israel's invasion of Lebanon in June because the Soviet-backed leader of Syria believes the U.S. did not live up to commitments made by Habib in bringing about a cease-fire between the Syrian and Israeli armies on June 11. These commitments were not spelled out.

Habib made frequent visits to Syria before the Lebanon war.

The Syrian Government reiterated yesterday that Syrian troops will withdraw from Lebanon only when Israel does.

Habib arrived in Beirut yesterday after meeting in Jerusalem with Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

JORDAN FAILS TO CONTROL WATER FLOWING INTO YARMUK

TA231438 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] Jordanian experts have failed to contain the torrents of water flowing from wells drilled near the banks of Yarmuk River. Large amounts of water are flowing from the well into the river. The project is operated by Jordanian and Italian experts. Jordan is trying to build a large reservoir which would contain the waters from the well. Israel has shown interest in the project, may drill wells in parallel on its territory.

POST NOTES MORE DETAILS ON PYTHON-3 MISSILE

TA230719 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 23 Feb 83 p 1

[Report by defense correspondent Joshu'a Brilliant]

[Text] A new Israeli-produced air-to-air missile called Python 3 which downed several enemy aircraft during the Lebanon war, was unveiled by the defence establishment yesterday.

The Python 3 is equalled in the West only by missiles produced by the U.S. and France, said Ze'ev Bonen director of the Defence Ministry's Armaments Development Authority (Rafa'el) which produced the missile.

The three metre-long 120 kilo missile will replace the Shafrir 2 which became operational in 1969. The Shafrif 2 is not suitable for modern air battles according to Bonen. A pilot wishing to fire the heat-seeking Shafrir 2 has to maneuver behind the enemy airplane. The Python 3 is also a heat-seeking missile but has a supersensitive infra-red detector and can be fired from "practically any" direction. It can be launched from a minimum distance of 500 metres during close air combat to a maximum of 15 kilometres in long-range interception.

Bonen said the Python 3 is "more or less" equal to the U.S. Sidewinder 9L which was sold to Saudi Arabia. He confirmed it had been successfully used in the Lebanon war but did not give details.

Bonen hopes that Israel will be able to export the missile at this year's Paris air show. Several countries have so far shown interest in it, but Bonen would not disclose details nor give the missile's price.

AGUDAT YISRA'EL TO RAISE 'WHO IS JEW' ISSUE

TA231822 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] Agudat Yisra'el has decided to submit to the Knesset the amendment to the law on who is a Jew next week. MK Menahem Porush has told our correspondent that if the prime minister imposes coalition discipline when the matter at hand is amending the Rabbinate Law, he may also agree to impose coalition discipline in order to ensure a majority and amend the Law of Return in a way that would state that only a person who was converted to Judaism according to Jewish law is a Jew. The Agudat Yisra'el Knesset members said this evening that 2 months have already elapsed since their last attempt to pass an amendment to the law on who is a Jew.

Our correspondent Arye Golan notes that the coalition agreement does not include an explicit commitment to amend the law, but the prime minister has promised Agudat Yisra'el to try to enlist a majority and pass that amendment.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR TO NEW ZEALAND -- Jurist Yosef Kremmerman from Kaifa has been appointed Israel's ambassador to New Zealand. He is identified with the Likud and his appointment was made possible according to the agreement permitting the foreign minister to appoint 15 political nominations in Israeli representations abroad. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 18 Feb 83 TA]

NEW BORDER POLICE COMMANDER -- Deputy Commander Pinhas Shahar is the new commander of the border police as of today, replacing commander Tzvi Bar, who will become the new head of the Operations Branch in the Israeli Police. This job is considered the second highest position just under the inspector general. He will enter office in 10 days. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 18 Feb 83 TA]

IDF APPOINTMENT -- Dr Moshe Revah was appointed head of the IDF's medical branch today. Revah, who replaced Brigadier general 'Eran Dolev, was promoted to the rank of brigadier general today. [Text] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 17 Feb 83 TA]

ALGERIA

BENDJEDID RECEIVES 'ARAFAT, NEW LEADERSHIP

LD231932 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] Chadli Bendjedid, FLN secretary general and president of the republic, received at noon today at the presidential office members of the new Palestinian leadership headed by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who is also the supreme commander of the Palestine revolution forces.

The audience was attended by member of the FLN Political Bureau Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, the official in charge of the Permanent Secretariat of the FLN Central Committee; Foreign Minister Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi; and Interior Minister M'hamed Yala.

Later the Palestinian leaders had lunch at the invitation of the president of the republic in the presence of members of the FLN Political Bureau.

The Palestinian leaders then delivered a token gift to the president of the republic. The gift, given by Yasir 'Arafat, was a symbolic one consisting of the Dome of the Rock mosque in miniature made of mother of pearl, which is the symbol of Jerusalem.

IBRAHIMI REITERATES SUPPORT FOR PLO, PNC

LD200946 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 20 Feb 83

[Text] Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister, yesterday explained to foreign journalists some aspects of Algerian foreign policy in light of the coming Seventh Nonaligned States' Summit Conference. In connection with the Palestinian question, he said that Algeria has continuously supported and will continue to support the PLO in all its efforts to establish an independent Palestinian state and to regain the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people on Palestinian land. He added that Algeria will endorse all decisions to be made by the present session of the Palestinian National Council and will defend them at the forthcoming nonaligned summit.

Ibrahimi on Foreign Relations

LD211248 Algiers APS in English 1015 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Text] Algiers, 21/2/83 (APS) -- Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, Politbureau member, foreign affairs minister, audienced yesterday in Algiers (?for) special envoys, correspondents of world agencies of news -- papers, radio, and television.

This meeting had been an opportunity for the minister to explain and develop, in answer to questions asked for some aspects of Algeria's external policy in the light of the principles subscribed in the national charter.

Dr Taleb Ibrahimi underlined that the international situation on the eve of the holding of the nonaligned summit in New Delhi is characterized by global and structural crisis affecting to different degree the members of world community, on the double economic level.

The minister evoked, the nonaligned countries' increasing difficulties of development, and therefore the coming nonaligned summit will put stress on seeking for mobilizing and unifying themes necessarily economic such as the seeking for means able to relaunch global negotiations and strengthen South-South cooperation.

Dealing the situation in Africa, the foreign minister underlined the role of some extra-African power which hampered the OAU summit from being held, despite the two major attempts to hold it. However, the minister added, in the third attempt to hold the OAU summit in Algeria is opposed to the coming back of Israel in the African countries and is working with some other (?Arab) countries to put an end to the extending of Zaire opening.

Dr Taleb Ibrahimi had moreover dealt with the different aspects of the Palestinian question, and affirmed that Algeria had always fully backed up and will continue to uphold the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in all its efforts to establish a Palestinian state and reinstate the Palestinian imprescriptible [as received] rights of the Palestinian land.

He further added that Algeria will continue to act in the same way, clearly recalled by President Chadli in his speech before the present session of the Palestinian National Council, which consists in ensuring the maintaining of the Pakistanian and the cohesion of the Palestinian ranks, work relentlessly to make a close rapproachment between Syria and Palestine, and grant unlimited aide to PLO, the unique representative of the Palestinian people. In this connection, the minister indicated that Algeria will ratify the decisions which will be taken for the present session of the PNC and will defend them before the coming of nonaligned summit.

Speaking about the inter-Arab relations the minister put stress on Algeria's constant will to close Arab ranks, face to the common danger, and in the higher interest of the popular masses in this regard, he indicated that it is impossible for Algeria to resume diplomatic relations with Egypt so long as the Israeli flag is still floating [over] Cairo.

As for the future Algerian-Moroccan relations the minister underlined that Algeria had always made of good neighboring and the cooperation with Morocco one of fundamental principles of its external policy; till the Saharan people had been prevented from exercising its natural right for self-determination. [sentence as received] Relations will be normalized when the Morocco-Saharawi conflict will be solved down on the basis of respect of the Saharawi people [word indistinct].

LIBYA

JANA REACTS TO MUBARAK ON AIRSPACE VIOLATION

LD231736 Tripoli JANA in English 1432 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada 11, Feb 23 JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY -- President Husni Mubarak of Egypt alleged that Libyan aircraft had violated Egypt's airspace and that he had dispatched planes to intercept them since they carried neither U.S. nor Israeli identification.

Speaking at a press conference yesterday Mubarak (?warned of) the repercussions if such incidents are repeated. It is difficult not to shake cynically upon hearing such comments since Egyptian territory has already been desecrated by Israelis and Americans. It would have been advisable for the Egyptian leader to have ordered his airforce to stop the U.S. AWACS and Israeli Kfir aircraft. If Libyan aircraft had actually entered Egyptian airspace this would have been an honour for Egypt. Instead U.S. and Zionist planes which had killed Egyptians in Abu Za'bal, Bahr al-Baqar, Suez Canal, and the delta continue to operate freely in Sinai, Cairo, and Alexandria. However, Libyan aircraft have defended Egyptian airspace in the October war and the Egyptian people will celebrate when the Libyan planes return to protect Egypt's airspace.

IMPLEMENTATION OF UNION AGREEMENTS URGED

LD231112 Tripoli JANA in English 0840 GMT 23 Feb 83

["Statement by Revolutionary Command on 25th Anniversary of First Arab Unity in Modern History" -- JANA headline]

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada 11, Feb 23, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY -- It is of great significance that the revolutionary forces and the popular masses are commemorating this historic event at a time when Arab national existence is being threatened. The unity between Egypt and Syria under the leadership of the leader Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir had destroyed the Baghdad Pact, the Eisenhower plan and foiled his imperialist theory -- the theory of filling the vacuum in the Middle East and North Africa which was accepted by the government of the lackey Idriss as-Sanusi.

The Egyptian-Syrian unity gave impetus to the rise of the masses and set a revolutionary unionist tide into action which culminated in the outbreak of the July 14 revolution in Iraq, September 26 revolution in Yemen, the Algerian revolution, and the revolution of South Yemen.

The first Arab unity inspired a cultural revival in the Arab nation. Its impact shook the Arab states to their very foundation. Similarly, the separation, with its equally strong impact, led to the development of the first cells of the free unionist revolutionary committees which sparked off the Great Al-Fatih Revolution in response to the separation and the ensuing defeat.

This national unionist revolution has raised the banners of unity once again and drafted the plans of the new unity, the unity of the masses (Jamahiriyah). It has sincerely borne the responsibility entrusted upon it by the architect of the first Arab unity, the leader Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir.

The leadership of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution would like to take this opportunity to announce the following to the Arab masses from the ocean to the Gulf:

Firstly: Unity is a revolutionary task and therefore the great Al-Fatih Revolution considers it a first priority.

Secondly: The Great Al-Fatih Revolution considers unity to be a question of principle and belief, but given the present deterioration and capitulations, the Great Al-Fatih Revolution sees Arab unity as the historic and necessary answer to this defeatist Arab situation in the face of the Zionist death wagon.

Thirdly: It announces its readiness to immediately start unity procedure with any progressive Arab regime or faction unconditionally, with the exception that this unity be based on political and social interests of the masses and that all the capabilities of this United States should be channelled for the liberation of Palestine.

It calls upon the Algerian people and military President Chadli Bendjedid, leader of the million martyrs' revolution, to immediately proceed with this unity. It calls upon our Tunisian brothers and militant President Habib Bourguiba to implement the Jarbah declaration.

It announces its commitment to the Arab republics union which was set up as a result of the referendum among the peoples of Egypt, Syria, and Libya as well as its commitment to the Tripoli charter that includes Egypt, the Sudan, Syria, and Libya.

It calls upon the leaders of San'a' and Aden to proceed with the unity between the two parts of Yemen immediately and upon any armed group working against San'a' to lay down their arms and proceed with unity and consequently direct the weapons against the real enemy of the Arab nation.

It also announces that Tripoli stretches its arm to embrace all Yemeni brothers to declare this unity.

Fourthly: It calls for an urgent meeting by the two leaderships in Syria and Libya to immediately implement the decision of the Arab people in Syria and the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

Forward...struggle continues...

PLANE HIJACKERS SURRENDER IN MALTA 23 FEB

LD231926 Tripoli JANA in English 1829 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] Valletta, Jumada 11, Feb 23, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY -- The hijackers of the Libyan plane gave themselves up this afternoon to the Maltese authorities. All passengers and crew emerged [words indistinct] unharmed. Our correspondent here said that [word indistinct] and crew were in good health.

MUBARAK'S VISIT TO SUDAN TERMED 'SUSPICIOUS'

LD222040 Tripoli JANA in English 1800 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] Cairo, Jumada 10, Feb 22, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY -- President Husni Mubarak of Egypt arrived in Khartoum this afternoon on a suspicious visit to Sudan.

Our political editor commented on the visit, saying:

The head of the Egyptian regime is today taking another step along the path of embroiling the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples in endless problems.

With his visit to Khartoum today, he has confirmed that this time he (?is impelled) by a desire to accentuate the Sudanese people's tragedy. His conduct is a calculated gamble to back agent Numaryi's lies towards Jamahiriyah and alleged Libyan threat to Sudan. He is throwing his weight behind a tottering ruler grimly holding to his power-seat even at the cost of embroiling Egypt and bringing the U.S. to fight on his behalf. The Egyptian ruler appears to be ignoring the problems facing agent Numayri's regime, which is forcing the Sudanese people to pay for the economic crisis and corruption. The poverty stricken people have naturally launched several uprisings against the regime, thus decisively condemning its capacity to rule. The Egyptian ruler is accepting agent Numayri's desperate pretexts to remain in power, causing the people political hardships and inflicting upon it military retribution. Mubarak is also endangering the Egyptian people in this process. Agent Numayri's regime has perpetrated several massacres, including the 1972 one in Abba, the 1976 one in Atbara, and the Omdurman and Ghadafir massacres. These crimes have exposed the fascist nature of Numayri's regime.

Mubarak's rejection of all these facts is an indication of his preparedness to join hands with Numayri's in crushing the Sudanese people, not (?withstanding) problems this (?will) bring to the Egyptian people itself. This adventure could also lead to a war that will bring down the Egyptian regime itself.

Calling for help from the Egypt regime and America, with its fleets and spy-planes, so as to intimidate the Libyan people and destroy the region [words indistinct] the Numayri regime's feebleness and [word indistinct] posture. The Egyptian regime should have tried to serve Egypt's people and its Arab position rather than asking America and the Zionists for help or embroiling itself in standing against the Sudanese people's will and aspirations to rid themselves of agent Numayri's [word indistinct]. Indeed, these are grave errors. And those who make them should face their consequences. In As-Sadat, Mubarak has a lesson to learn. Will he learn from it or will he burn himself?

CORRECTION TO AL-QADHDHAFI ON U.S. 6TH FLEET

The following corrections pertain to the item entitled "Al-Qadhdhafi on U.S. Sixth Fleet Activities" published in the 17 February Middle East and Africa DAILY REPORT, Q 1, 2 :

on page Q1, paragraph one, line one make read...[Excerpt] All news agencies have been reporting that at dawn today...(providing words at beginning of sentence);

paragraph four, penultimate line make read///to colonize America. All we want is for America not to...(clearing queried words);

paragraph five, last line make read...Hitler, for example.

Should we pay the price? Therefore, the Jews on their own came to establish a Zi Zionist...(providing words indistinct);

paragraph seven, penultimate line make read...to destroy us? The Arabs told America: "Sell us arms." It said: "No." But America freely gives them the arms...(clearing queried words, providing alternate translation);

last paragraph, line one make read...Did we go to the Hudson Bay in America...(clearing queried words, rewording);

last paragraph, line two make read...Misratah and Banghazi? America left Misratah and Banghazi behind it. Anyone who enters the Gulf of Sidra will have Misratah and Banghazi behind him. He enters into Libyan territory. America can enter this territory. If they want to enter, then let them enter. As far as I am concerned, the sea belongs to the land. I am not concerned about who enters it. The sea belongs to the land. This is the Gulf of Sidra, into which America can enter as far as the water extends. This means that America is entering into Libya. We would not allow it to do so. By God, even if we all talk to America, it keeps on telling me: This is red." Perhaps America would like to enter the Gulf of Sidra. We would not allow only America to do so, but we would also not allow any foreign state to enter it. [applause]...(providing indistinct passage)

MOROCCO

OAU PROPOSAL ON ADDIS ABABA SUMMIT REJECTED

LD212009 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1530 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Text] Rabat, 21 Feb (MAP) -- Morocco has confirmed its rejection of the recommendation of the OAU 12-man committee to convene the 19th summit in Addis Ababa without any pre-conditions.

Morocco has expressed its conviction that the best way for Africa to restore its unity and the effectiveness of its organization is to return to the resolutions adopted by the implementation committee which the OAU set up with regard to Western Sahara. These resolutions are aimed at establishing a cease-fire and at organizing a referendum in these territories.

In a statement issued by the Moroccan Embassy in Kenya and published today by the Moroccan AL-ALAM, Morocco explained that the recommendation of the aforementioned committee reflects an inability to find a compromise that might put the OAU back on the road of unity -- the recommendation of a compromise solution for which the current chairman of the OAU, Daniel arap Moi, president of Kenya, had made a pressing appeal in his opening speech at the committee meeting in Nairobi.

The Moroccan statement said that Rabat has reservations with regard to the nature and formation of the liaison committee set up by the second Tripoli meeting in November, last year; that represents a minority trend and does not enjoy any legal status. This committee, set up by those present in Tripoli comprises ten states which have recognized the so-called [SDAR] republic, and they are: Angola, Mozambique, Lesotho, Mali, Congo, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Libya, Zambia, Kenya, and Nigeria.

Nevertheless, Morocco holds the view that despite everything it has given this committee a chance, but the apparent flaws in its formation has made intransigence and extremism prevail over moderation. The Moroccan statement adds that the adversaries of legitimacy have exposed once more their premeditated and established determination to perpetuate the estrangement inside the OAU and to steer the organization to a point of noreturn. The statement concludes by stating that Morocco had hoped that the liaison committee would recommend the reactivation of the OAU implementation committee to draft a final solution to the artificial tension in northwest Africa.

COMMUNIQUE FOLLOWS VISIT BY BULGARIA'S MLADENOV

For the Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO version of the Bulgarian-Moroccan communique on the 15-17 February visit of Bulgarian Foreign Minister Petur Mladenov to Morocco, see the Bulgaria section of the 24 February Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

SUDAN

FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT ON LIBYAN PLOT

JN231858 Khartoum SUNA English 1750 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Feb (SUNA) -- The Sudanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement here today condemning the Libyan meddling with Sudan's affairs. The statement said that Sudan would never accept any attempt against its territories and stability and would face any Libyan plot with the necessary deterrence. The statement added that these Libyan practices has been continuing since a long time in a desperate attempt to foil Sudan's revolution and its people's aspirations.

In spite of the continued failure which has been accompanying Libyan regime, the statement said, it did not desist but continued its serial of plots and aggressions with the aim of destabilizing security and stability and provoking troubles in Sudan. This was not unusual from that reigme. The statement said for when conspiracies and instigation and provocation of strifes and disturbances have become a marked label and one of its aims and as irations, not only in the Sudan but at the level of all international community.

The statement went on saying: Today the news of intensive Libyan military amassing along over western borders came as another evidence and a new confirmation of aggressive intentions against the revolution of the Sudan and the people of the Sudan.

The statement warned the Libyan regime should know and well conceive the perils of the path it had chosen to proceed against the people of the Sudan. Its Armed Forces who repulsed the Libyan invaders in 1976, the statement said, are capable and ready to repulse any other aggression with the equipment at their disposal. The statement concluded that the people would counter Libyan conspiracies with the resoluteness and deterrence needed and would reduce Sudanese territory into a grave for invaders and aggressors.

ABU SAQ DENIES REPORTS ON FOREIGN TROOPS AID

JN221102 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Feb (SUNA) -- Dr Muhammad 'Uthman Abu Saq, minister of national guidance and information, has affirmed that Sudan is capable of defending its territory against any aggressor. He also denied that Sudan has asked foreign troops to defend its territories.

In a press statement to the editor in chief of the Cairo newspaper AL-AHRAM, who is currently visiting Sudan, Abu Saq added that Sudan will teach any mercenary or aggressor a lesson which would remind them of the blow they suffered in 1976. The minister also stated that cooperation between Sudan and the United States is based on a clear-cut policy and on specific, declared foundations.

Abu Saq added that coordination between Egypt and Sudan is continuing not only within the context of integration between the two countries or the joint defense agreement, but also is part of the eternal relations which tie the two friendly peoples.

NUMAYRI INTERVIEWED BY LONDON ARABIC DAILY

JN211209 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1040 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Text] London, 21 Feb (SUNA) -- President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, in an interview published in the London-based Saudi daily ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday, affirmed that Sudan will continue with its development project.

On sending Sudanese troops to Iraq, President Numayri said that the decision to send troops to Iraq was made in response to the resolution adopted by the Arab summit in Fes which called for supporting Iraq against Iran. He added that the Sudanese troops were sent to Iraq only when Sudan realized that all Arab and Islamic mediations to stop the war had failed.

in his interview, President Numayri expressed his firm support for the efforts being exerted by the Arab seven-member committee toward achieving peace in the Middle East, adding that what had happened between the Arabs and Britain would not obstruct the discharghing of the committee's ascribed tasks of contacting the big powers. Numayri further said that the assessment of the committee's outcome should be handled by the committee's chairman to enable him produce a comprehensive report on the world's opinion about the Palestinian issue after completing its contacts with the UN Security Council member-states.

On the communist penetration in the Arab region and Africa, President Numayri expressed his regret for the successful communist penetration, adding that this was the result of the new policy of violence that had emerged as a consequence of what had happened to the communists in Sudan, Egypt, and Somalia.

On Egypt's return to the Arab fold, President Numayri said that Egypt had never abandoned the Arab world, adding that its recent Camp David (?role) came only following its conviction that this road would solve the Middle East problem politically. He added that he supports Egypt's continuing move for a Middle East peaceful solution, stressing his belief in the advantage of dialogue and his disagreement with Syria's policy toward the Middle East problem, a policy that rejects every solution to the problem.

President Numayri described Libya's position toward Sudan as hostile. He said: We harbor no enmity toward the Libyan people but Al-Qadhdhafi is trying to change the situation in Sudan.

In his interview with ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, President Numayri answered other questions related to various internal and world issues.

TUNISIA

COMMUNIQUE FOLLOWS VISIT BY BULGARIA'S MLADENOV

For the Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO version of the Bulgarian-Tunisian communique on the 17-19 February visit of Bulgarian Foreign Minister Petur Mladenov to Tunisia, see the Bulgaria section of the 24 February Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

WESTERN SAHARA

SAHARAN AMBASSADOR ON COUP ATTEMPT IN MOROCCO

FL221945 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Excerpts] At a news conference, Boulali Mohamed Fadel, ambassador of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic to Cuba, announced that a coup attempt was staged in Morocco recently. This coup, he said, claimed the life of a general and resulted in the arrest of four top officers.

The news conference was held on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the creation of the Polisario.

[Begin Fadel recording -- in progress] ...10 percent of our national territory which is still under the illegal occupation of the expansionist Moroccan regime. [We must] mobilize our people to face up to an aggressive and desperate power like the United States, which has forcefully intervened to annihiliate our people and supports Morocco's feudal regime which is going through a social, political, and economic crisis. We are not surprised about a recent coup attempt in Morocco. General Dlimi was killed in this coup. [end recording]

The ambassador explained that the general's death was reported as an accident in Morocco. However, he added, the truth is that the Moroccan officers in Sahara or Morocco are the ones who suffer, in their own flesh, the warmongering and adventurous policy of King Hassan II; therefore, they express their rejection in various ways.

He noted that the murder of General (Dlimi) was carried out because the monarch rejects any alternative that threatens the throne in Morocco.

Fadel stressed that, in the diplomatic sphere, the Saharan people earned themselves the right to a seat in the OAU in February 1982. He described this action as a harsh blow to the expansionist policy of the Moroccan regime.

He said that despite an increase in aid to Morocco by certain imperialist powers, the Saharan state is becoming consolidated and is increasing its relations with other countries.

[Begin Fadel recording] The intrasigence of the Moroccan regime and the aggressive U.S. policy have not left any possibility for an immediate solution as recommended by international organizations. They have closed all doors for a negotiated solution. In view of this situation, our people said what they had to say and expressed their will with the slogan of the fifth congress of the Polisario: The entire fatherland or martyrdom. [end recording]

NYERERE MAKES CABINET CHANGES 23 FEBRUARY

EA231836 Dar es Salaam in English to East Central and Southern Africa 1800 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] Dar es Salaam: President Nyerere has announced major changes in his Cabinet returning Ndugu Edward Sokoine as prime minister after recovering his health. The former prime minister, Ndugu Cleopa Msuya, who has been acting as finance minister in addition to his duties as prime minister, now becomes full-time minister for finance.

The president has also appointed three ministers without portfolio. They are Ndugu Rashid Kawawa, the CCM [Revolutionary Party] secretary general, who will liaise between the party and government. His office will continue to be at the party HQ in Dodoma. The other ministers without portfolio are Ndugu Amir Habib Jamal and Aballah Twalipo. The president has also reappointed Ndugu Timothy Apiyo, principal secretary to the presidents office, secretary to the Cabinet and head of the Civil Service. The following is a full Cabinet list:

Prime Minister -- Edward Sokoine
Minister for Foreign Affairs -- Salim Ahmad Salim
Minister for Finance -- Cleopa Msuya
Minister for Agriculture -- John Machunda
Minister for Communications and Transport -- John Malecela
Minister for National Education -- Jackson Makweta
Minister for Labor and Social Welfare -- Alfred Tandau
Minister for Water and Energy -- Al-Noor Kassum
Minister for Minerals -- Paul Bomani
Minister for Works -- Guntram Itatiro
Minister for Health -- Aaron Kiduo
Minister for Industires -- Basil Mramba
Minister for Trade -- Mustafa Nyangianyi
Minister for Livestock Development -- Herman Kirigini
Minister for Lands, Housing and Urban Development -- Tabitha Siwale
Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism -- George Kahama
Minister for Information and Culture -- Daudi Mwakawago
Minister for State in the presidents office responsible for capital development -- Samuel Sitta
Minister for State in the vice presidents office responsibe for planning and economic development -- Kighoma Ali Malima
Minister of State in the vice presidents office -- Ali Hassan Mwinyi
Minister of State in the prime ministers office -- Gertrude Moncella
Minister for State in the prime ministers office -- Pius Ng'Mwandi
Minister for State in the prime ministers office -- Paul Kimiti
Minister of State in the prime ministers office -- Anna Makinda
Minister for Justice and Attorney General -- Joseph Warioba
Ministers without portfolio -- Rashid Kawawa, Amir Jamal, and Abdallah Twalipo
Minister for Defense and National Service -- Muhiddin Kimario

The following have been appointed deputy ministers:

Communications and transport -- (Henery Limuhagati)
Finance -- (Arkadon Mpagazwa) and Vernance Ngula
Defense and national service -- (Seif Bakari) and (Stephen Kibona)
Water and energy -- (Maokola Majogo)
Home affairs -- (Hamadi Rashidi Mohamed)
Agriculture -- (Ilimuli Kachupa)
Industries -- (Evarist Mwanansao)
National education -- (Lazaru Kiima)

LIBERIA

DOE: BORDER TO REMAIN CLOSED IN PROTEST

AB231147 Paris AFP in English 1107 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] Monrovia, Feb. 23 (AFP) -- Liberia will maintain its ban on land, air and sea travel to and from Sierra Leone, imposed yesterday in protest against an article in a Freetown newspaper, until Sierra Leone apologises, Liberian head of state Samuel Doe said here today. The article in the independent newspaper PROGRESS alleged that Mr Doe shot and killed his wife Nancy for her alleged involvement in a plot to poison him and overthrow the government.

Reports reaching here from Freetown said President Siaka Stevens said he was "equally astonished" at the paper's allegations and that he recognised press freedom in his country had been abused "from time to time". In a telegram message to Mr. Doe, President Stevens asked him to reconsider resuming normal relations in keeping with the "tradition of good neighbourliness and brotherhood" between the two countries. But Mr Doe said Dr. Stevens' reaction was not satisfactory and that the border would remain closed until Sierra Leone "sincerely regrets the events".

DOE MEETS GUINEAN PRIME MINISTER 23 FEB

AB231914 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] The head of state and chairman of the People's Redemption Council, CIC [Commander in Chief] Dr Samuel Kanyon Doe, and Guinea's prime minister, Lansana Beavogui, have been holding talks at the Executive Mansion following Mr Beavogui's arrival in Mongrovia this morning. An Executive Mansion release announcing his visit said the prime minister brought a special message from President Sekou Toure of the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea, a message focused on the Guinean leader's concern over the grave damage done to Dr Doe's character by an article in a Sierra Leonean newspaper. At the same time, President Toure urged the Liberian leader to exercise restraint in handling the current situation between Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Dr Doe asked the prime minister to assure President Toure that the dispatching of troops to the border with Sierra Leone was not intended to engage in hostile action but to make certain that no one violates the decisions by government. Commander in Chief Doe stressed during the meeting that all his government is expecting is that his colleague in Sierra Leone will recognize the gravity of the charge by a newspaper in his country and react to the satisfaction of the Liberian nation and people. The head of state said he is requiring nothing more than the treatment reserved for the leader of the country whose character, integrity, and name have been maliciously tarnished by a newspaper article. Until he is satisfied President Stevens has exercised sufficient initiative to resolve the issue. Liberia's position remains firm, Dr Doe said.

Meanwhile, President Toure has proposed an urgent summit of the Mano River Union, to which the Liberian leader has agreed. According to an Executive Mansion release, Prime Minister Beavogui, who attended the burial of the late agriculture minister, Albert Fromoyan, will remain in Monrovia until tomorrow.

NIGERIA

DECEMBER CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION REPORTED

AB230956 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] Nigeria's production of crude oil for December last year stood at about 37.5 million barrels. Out of this figure, more than 22 million barrels were exported during the period. A statement by the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation said more than 5 million barrels of crude oil was supplied to three local refineries for processing. That of off-shore processing amounted to over 5 and 1/2 million barrels. [as heard]

SIERRA LEONE

EDITORS ARRESTED FOLLOWING DISPUTE WITH LIBERIA

AB240739 Paris AFP in English 0721 GMT 24 Feb 83

[Text] Freetown, Feb 24 (AFP) -- Three newspaper editors have been ordered arrested here in the wake of a row over a false report that Liberian head of state Samuel Doe had shot and killed his wife. The first person arrested was Fode Kande, editor of the weekly PROGRESS, which had said Mr Doe shot his wife after she tried to poison him in an attempted coup. Liberia cut all air, sea and land links with Sierra Leone in response to the article, recalled its ambassador in Freetown and moved 2,000 troops up the joint border. After his detention Tuesday, the arrest was authorized of Mohamed Sanu, editor of SABANOH, and Christopher Koker of THE ADVOCATE. All three are expected to be held for about three weeks.

No reason was given for the detention of Mr Sanu and Mr Koker, but SABANOH said earlier this month that a gunman recently tried to shoot President Stevens while he was in London. Mr Koker was found guilty of contempt of court last December and sentenced to one month's imprisonment; his paper published an article last week about students attacking a motor company here.

At least half a dozen tabloid papers which have sprung up under Sierra Leone's comparatively free press regime have either faced or are facing court actions for alleged libel.

Mr Doe, who was given a warm welcome when he visited Freetown last month, is popular here, but there was resentment at an implied claim in an official communique from Monrovia Tuesday to parts of Sierra Leone's territory known to have oil deposits.

An appeal from Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure for both countries to settle their differences was also criticized here, as the Sierra Leone Government feels no responsibility for what happened.

Guinean Premier Lansana Beavogui went to Monrovia Wednesday and gave Mr Doe a message from Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure urging restraint and calling for an urgent meeting of the Mano River Union, an economic community which groups Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia, possibly to resolve the issue. The Liberian leader assured President Toure that sending troops to the border was not intended as hostile action but to make sure that no one violated the ban on travel.

Mr Doe reiterated that the borders would remain closed until Sierra Leone "sincerely regrets the events."

TOGO

EYADEMA, SEKOU TOURE HOLD TALKS 23 FEB

AB232026 Lome Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] President Eyadema and his Guinean counterpart Ahmed Sekou Toure today discussed in Lome the socioeconomic problems in the West African subregion. The talks took place when the Guinean head of state stopped over in Lome en route for a working and friendly state visit to Zaire. After the ususal welcoming ceremony at the international Lome-Tokoin Airport, Presidents Eyadema and Sekou Toure went directly to Lome II where they held private talks which were followed by a luncheon. The Guinean president and his entourage composed of six ministers left our capital at around 1230. Let us listen to Sekou Toure before his departure from Lome.

[Begin Sekou Toure recording] Yes, I believe that it can be [words indistinct] already established as a tradition each time we meet, President Eyadema and I always discuss all the problems affecting our people. We will also participate in the Seventh Congress of the Nonaligned Countries. It was therefore normal that we should discuss briefly preparations for the forthcoming meeting in which Togo and Guinea intend to participate fully.

We also reviewed the African situation in the face of the crisis which still prevents the normal functioning of the OAU. And today one cannot speak of the OAU without reviewing the political trends dividing Africa, particularly the problem of the Sahara and the false problem of Chad. We should add that in the last few weeks, there have been great upheavals in our subregion and it was proper to hold an exchange of views on that problem. We also wished to hail the solidarity of the Togolese people and government with our Ghanaian brothers who passed through Lome and who received invaluable assistance. We therefore have to envisage for the future new prospects that can ensure understanding between neighboring states, a prerequisite for the consolidation of our subregional organizations such as ECOWAS and indispensable to the strengthening of [word indistinct] the OAU, namely an atmosphere of peace, understanding, and harmony which facilitates dynamic cooperation among the African states. Of course, I take this opportunity to say that I was especially requested to ask President Eyadema to pay a state visit to the Republic of Guinea because the people would like the present to him testimony of their total trust and their indestructable affection. I hope that the brotherly people of Togo will favorably consider this invitation to visit the Guinean people and I hope that in a few weeks this invitation will be given concrete expression. Ready for the revolution! [end recording]

JOHANNESBURG CITES REPORT ON CAPE VERDE TALKS

MB240706 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 24 Feb 83

[Text] The secretary general of the United Nations, Mr Perez de Cuellar, has announced that the five Western powers will be meeting in Ottawa again tomorrow for talks on South-West Africa. Addressing a meeting called to brief the American assistant secretary of state for African affairs, Dr Chester Crocker, on his recent African tour, he said that tomorrow's meeting would be at the level of heads of department of the respective foreign ministries.

In the meantime, the Portuguese news agency ANOP reports that delegations from South Africa and Angola have finished a second round of talks on the Cape Verde Islands and that a fresh round of talks is to be held. The news agency says that the second round lasted 2 hours and the delegations will be returning home today.

The foreign minister of the Cape Verde Islands, Mr Silvino da Luz, said in an interview that he had met both delegations. He said that the role of his government was to encourage both sides to understand each other and to create a climate of trust which was so essential for talks of this nature.

Earlier, a spokesman for the South African Department of Foriegn Affairs and Information said that the talks between Angola and South Africa were about the conditions to be met to bring peace in South-West Africa.

RSA Delegation Downgraded

MB231056 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 23 Feb 83 p 1

[By Patrick Laurence, political editor]

[Text] A South African delegation headed by the director general for foreign affairs, Mr Hans van Dalsen, left for the Cape Verde Islands yesterday for a second round of peace talks with Angolan officials, according to well-placed sources. The absence of the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, from the South African delegation means that the second round will be conducted at a lower level than the opening round of direct SA-Angolan talks last December.

South Africa's decision not to send a Cabinet minister was viewed by some observers as a sign of South African anger at the opening of a new offensive by SWAPO fighters in northern South-West Africa. According to reports from SWA, the SWAPO insurgents are members of a SWAPO elite force, based at Lubango in Angola and trained in communist countries in guerrilla warfare and political assassination.

There has been heavy fighting over the past few days as South African security forces launched attacks to intercept and destroy SWAPO infiltrators. The minister of law and order, Mr Louis Le Grange, put the number of SWAPO dead at 98 in a statement to Parliament on Monday. But a South-West African Territory Force statement yesterday said security forces had killed 33 more insurgents in the last few days.

Mr Botha is understood to have alluded to the latest SWAPO incursion in a statement on Friday when he said "recent events" had reduced the chances of achieving a cease-fire on the troubled SWA-Angolan border, which, according to some reports, has been imminent since January. Mr Botha confirmed, however, that a South African delegation led by Mr van Dalsen would still hold talks with Angolan officials at Cape Verde on the conditions for a possible cease-fire.

Mr Botha and the minister of defence, General Magnus Malan, headed the SA team in December. The Angolans were led by the minister of interior, Lieutenant Colonel Alexandre Rodrigues, and the minister of transport, Mr Faustino Muteka.

It was not known last night who would head the Angolan team at the latest talks, but it is unlikely that they would send a Cabinet minister or a person of equal status in view of the composition of the South Africa team.

At a news conference in London 10 days ago the Angolan foreign minister, Mr Paolo Jorge, rejected reports that a cease-fire was imminent or even that substantive discussions on a cease-fire had taken place. "South Africa spoke of the need to establish a climate of confidence but did not propose a cease-fire," he said of the December meeting. "Angola confined itself to taking note of the South African proposals and will reply to them at the next meeting."

Mr Jorge referred to the alleged presence of South African troops in southern Angola and charged that it made it difficult to create the necessary atmosphere of trust as a basis for discussions on a possible cease-fire.

Angolan Minister on Talks

AB241021 Paris AFP in English 1008 GMT 24 Feb 83

[Text] Libson, Feb 24 (AFP) -- South African and Angolan delegates had a two-hour meeting on the Cape Verdian island of Sal Wednesday and have agreed to meet again "soon" to continue their talks, the Portuguese news agency ANOP reported today. ANOP said the two sides reconsidered their respective positions during yesterday's session, which was a follow-up to a first round of talks on Sal Island at the beginning of December.

Angolan Foreign Minister Alexandre Rodrigues, quoted by the agency, said that yesterday's discussions were "not more positive because the South African delegation was not sufficiently representative." The Angolan delegation was mandated to "go much further in the dialogue with South Africa," Mr Rodrigues said. "Angola did not come to the Cape Verde meeting to beg for peace. We came to negotiate the return to legality in our territory so that we can implement" the United Nations resolution on Namibia, which lies between Angola and South Africa. He stressed that there was no question of negotiating a ceasefire with South Africa, whose Namibia-based troops operate in southern Angola against rear bases of the Namibian nationalist movement SWAPO. "We did not declare war on South Africa," he said. The Pretoria administration should cease hostilities to let the situation return to normal and clear the way for implementation of the UN resolution.

The Angolan Government did not oppose a "Rhodesian-type solution" in Namibia, Mr Rodrigues said in an apparent reference to international supervision of the elections which preceded independence in Zimbabwe. "We are certain that SWAPO is the legitimate representative of the Namibian people, and that this movement will win the elections if they are supervised." "Zimbabwe is a good example for South Africa," the minister said.

Mr Rodrigues sat out of yesterday's meeting, which was between his deputy minister, Venancio de Moura, and the director general of South Africa's Foreign Ministry, Hans van Dalsen.

Talks End

LD240052 Libson Domestic Service in Portuguese 0001 GMT 24 Feb 83

[Excerpts] Angolan and South African delegations have ended their talks on the Cape Verde islands of Sal, leaving behind the certainty that a new round of negotiations is to be held soon. Our correspondent Nelson Bandeira, reporting from Sal, said the main hurdle at this second round of talks in Cape Verde is the disparity between the two delegations. The Angolans had far greater negotiation powers than the South Africans.

According to ANOP news agency, the two delegations will return home in the early hours of today, Thursday, for consultations.

ANGOLA

PRESIDENT'S SPEECH OPENS PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY 22 FEB

EA231608 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Speech by President Jose Eduardo dos Santos on 22 February at opening session of People's Assembly at 10 December Hall in Luanda -- recorded]

[Excerpts] Comrade deputies, comrades and fellow countrymen. As we begin the sixth session of the People's Assembly, allow me to inform you that the difficult situation facing the country received special attention at the last extraordinary session of our party's Central Committee, which laid down concrete guidelines aimed at finding a progressive solution to the situation.

It was confirmed once again that the difficult situation facing us results from three basic factors: first, the war of aggression imposed by South Africa through its regular armed forces, which occupy an important part of our Cunene Province, and the armed puppet gangs and mercenaries; second, it results from the negative aspect of the current world economic and financial crisis, [words indistinct] since 1929; and finally, from some internal factors such as poor organization in production sectors, lack of coordination between bureaucratic services of management of the economy, and the growing [word indistinct] of production, foreign trade, and others.

Having made an in-depth analysis of all these factors, our party decided that the national plan should have the character of an emergency plan. In this year's national plan we have provided a series of priority emergency programs, the implementation of which may in some cases take 2-3 years. These programs constitute the first phase of the general emergency plan, which is expected to be fully worked out on a medium-term basis. It is, therefore, necessary to coordinate efforts in three fields: The party, the economy, and the military field. It (?is) obvious that all available material and financial resources must, as a priority, be channeled toward implementation of the objectives which are part of the emergency programs. [Passage indistinct]

Comrade deputies, the nation's efforts today are concentrated on defense of our sovereignty and territorial integrity and solving the (?difficult) economic situation. I think the documents that have been submitted, or will be submitted for our study [words indistinct] the preoccupations expressed in the previous session for a reduction in budget spending [words indistinct] and increasing revenue, increasing food production, improving supply, recovery of the means of transportation and machines, and others. Measures to strengthen economic policy, the fight against speculation [passage indistinct].

With regard to foreign policy, there have been no significant changes in the international arena. Our current policy corresponds to the general analysis made at the last session. We continue to promote a policy of dynamism in strengthening relations of friendship and cooperation, based on equality, mutual respect, and reciprocity of advantage with any state that so wishes. Only the U.S. Government continues to impose conditions for the recognition of our republic. One of its conditions is withdrawal of the Cuban internationalists from Angola. Our view is that we should be recognized without preconditions.

The situation in our region continues to be tense as a result of destabilization of the sovereign states of southern Africa by the Republic of South Africa.

As a means of (?easing) existing tension, and respecting our principles of solidarity with the peoples of Namibia and South Africa, we are continuing to promote diplomatic actions to hasten the application of UN Security Council Resolution 435/78 on Namibia's independence.

This diplomatic action, however, should neither attenuate our vigilance nor affect our determination militarily to defend our territory and our revolutionary achievements. As long as peace is not achieved on our southern border the enemy will continue to attack us. Military and diplomatic actions must be combined so that we may achieve our objectives: peace on our southern border with an independent Namibia and the internal stability on the path chosen by our people, that is, scientific socialism.

I express to you, comrade deputies, to all of you, my wishes for successful work, and I hereby declare open the sixth session of the People's Assembly.

The struggle continues and victory is certain.

COMMUNIQUE ON PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING

EA221856 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 21 Feb 83

["Text" of communique issued by the Central Committee of the MPLA-Labor Party on its extraordinary session held in Luanda on 19 February]

[Text] 1. The Central Committee met in extraordinary session on 18-19 February 1983, under the chairmanship of Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the MPLA-Labor Party. In accordance with the decisions of the 11th ordinary session it approved the following items on the agenda:

A. Emergency programs and general emergency plan
B. Full membership [completamento] of the Central Committee Secretariat
C. Composition of the permanent commission of the People's Assembly
D. Results of the inquiry ordered by the 11th session of the Central Committee

2. With regard to the agenda, the Central Committee of the MPLA-Labor Party decided to approve a series of emergency programs which are part of the national plan. As a result it called on the people to understand the general emergency plan as a goal to be achieved on a medium-term basis.

3. Given the nature of the programs and the need to obtain the greatest rigor, control, and discipline in government, it was decided to charge that Central Committee secretaries will give direct support to the comrade president in the task of monitoring and controlling the implementation of the programs, considered as priority programs by each of the [economic] sectors.

This is to be done by coordinating the action of government members, technical cadres, and experts integrated in the state apparatus. The emergency programs contained in the national plan will receive greater and closer attention, particularly regarding the distribution of human, financial, and material resources from the government.

4. Party bodies, party youth, and mass and social organizations are also called upon to assist in the tasks of increasing production and are urged to combat corruption, laxiety, speculation, hoarding, black-marketeering, and to create conditions which will allow the evacuation of excess population from the towns to the countryside.

5. The Central Committee of the MPLA-Labor Party also called on the People's Assembly and the Council of Ministers to approve the national plan and the emergency programs contained in the national plan.

6. On the proposal of the Political Bureau, the Central Committee of the MPLA-Labor Party discussed the question of filling the membership of its Secretariat, and it elected Comrade Roberto de Almeida to the post of secretary of the Central Committee for the Ideological Department, and Comrade Maria Mambo Cafe to the post of secretary of the Central Committee for the Economic and Social Department, replacing Comrade Roberto de Almeida. It appointed Comrade Antonio Jacinto to the post of director of the Central Committee Secretariat.

Point 7. It analyzed the composition of the permanent commission of the People's Assembly, taking into account the changes which have taken place within the party and government, and it decided that individual responsibility should be maintained and that the required adjustments should be made.

8. It assessed the final conclusions of the inquiry into the proposal on sanctions on party members who have violated discipline and abused the right to criticize. It approved the said proposal of the Central Commission of Control, the application of which is to be effected by the Secretariat of the Central Committee.

BILL INTRODUCING PRESS CONTROLS EXPECTED TO PASS

AB221408 Paris AFP in English 1337 GMT 22 Feb 83

[Text] Luanda, Feb. 22 (AFP) -- The Angolan Parliament's standing committee is expected to approve a state security bill effectively introducing press controls, at a sitting opening today.

The bill, which has already been given preliminary approval, provides for penalties ranging from three days in prison to the death sentence for those divulging information covered by a broadened definition of state secrets. The "secret" classification now covers "any information of a political, military, economic, scientific, or technical nature...which could affect the country's interests or could be used in the fight against the development of the revolutionary process."

Observers noted that the bill is mainly intended to prevent certain information about Angola being spread, particularly in the press. Under the new law, a position of chief of secret document control will be created in government bodies and provincial administrative offices.

BOTSWANA

OFFICIALS SAY 'ABOUT 500' ZIMBABWEANS IN CAMP

MB181206 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 18 Feb 83 p 3

[By Geoffrey Allen]

[Text] Gaborone. - About 500 Zimbabwean refugees are living in a strictly controlled "closed" United Nations camp in northern Botswana. Their presence was confirmed yesterday by the United Nations high commissioner for refugees, Mr Raymond E.R. Mkanda. "I was there on Sunday and there are definitely 500 Zimbabweans awaiting refugee status," he said.

Mr Mkanda and Botswana Government and police sources all emphatically denied reports that up to 1,000 refugees were massed on the South African border near Lobatse. Reports this week said the people had assembled in preparation for crossing into South Africa to seek refugee status. Already 18 Zimbabweans have been detained in protective custody in Klerdsdorp. At Lobatse, police and townfold were obviously startled at suggestions that such a group had assembled. "It's nonsense... we know nothing about it," a senior policeman said.

Mr Mkanda said it was absurd to suggest that as many as 1,000 refugees would have made the 1,000 km trek across Botswana to South Africa. "You couldn't hide a group like that." He and several government officials have just returned from an extensive countrywide tour checking on the numbers of refugees in Botswana. Their trip took in Lobatse, where he found no refugees. "At Dukwe, near Francistown, there are a total of 1,200 refugees from Angola, Mozambique, South Africa, and Zimbabwe, Of those, 500 are Zimbabweans."

Mr Mkanda said there might be confusion in the public mind about the numbers because the Botswana Government had recently opened a new settlement camp for locals adjacent to Dukwe. "But we can and did actually count the people in Dukwe, and no way are there anywhere near 1,000 Zimbabweans," he said.

Mr Mkanda said that before independence there had been 18,000 Rhodesians in Botswana, but since Mr Mugabe's government came to power all but 200 had returned to Zimbabwe. Since April last year the 200 had been joined by 300 more who entered Botswana. "It's a long, open border and people pop across daily, even to have meals with friends and relatives," he said.

SAPA reports that a man who fled the massacre of civilians in western Zimbabwe claimed yesterday he had to run into the bush in the middle of the night while government troops shot eight young men in a neighbouring kraal. A Pretoria newspaper said the man was one of the 18 arrested in Klerksdorp. They were apparently making their way to Johannesburg, hoping to disappear among the large black population on the Witwatersrand. The men said they had heard that about 400 people had been killed in Matabeleland since the present conflict started.

More Rules for Refugees

MB231310 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] The Botswana Government is to crack down on refugees living in the country.

Announcing this in Gaborone, the minister of public service and information, Mr Daniel Kwelagobe, said new measures would be introduced to ensure strict discipline at the Dukwe refugee camp, 500 km to the north. He said the Botswana Government was extremely concerned about the tendency of some refugees to disregard the conditions laid down by the government on granting the refugees political asylum. Many of the refugees, he said, had consistently refused to stay at Dukwe as required, and instead, went to Gaborone and Francistown where there was a lack of accommodation and employment. Mr Kwelagobe said that as a result, many refugees became involved in criminal and other undesirable activities which led to strained relations between the refugees and the people of Botswana.

Giving details of the new measures, the minister said all refugees would be issued with identity cards which they would be required to carry on them. Those living at Dukwe would be divided into groups, each of which would elect a leader and an assistant leader who would keep a register of the members of the group. Rollcalls would be held periodically to establish whether any members of a group were missing. Mr Kwelagobe said unemployed refugees currently living outside Dukwe would be required to return there. He added that any refugees who were subsequently found to be living outside (Dukwe) without the necessary exemption, would be immediately returned to their home countries.

Refugees Warned Against Hostilities

AB231338 Paris AFP in English 1306 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Excerpt] Johannesburg, Feb 23 (AFP) -- The Botswana Government yesterday warned refugees coming into the country to refrain from engaging in hostile activities of any kind against their countries of origin, reports said today. "The warning was made to the 1,200 refugees at the "closed" Dukwe camp in north-eastern Botswana and was clearly directed at about 500 of them who had fled alleged harassment in Zimbabwe," the RAND DAILY MAIL reported. The newspaper said the warning by the Botswana Government was a clear indication that it was not prepared to tolerate the possibility of its northern border becoming an unofficial battleground between the refugees and the Zimbabwean Fifth Brigade from which they apparently fled.

MALAWI

CHIRWA TRIAL ENDS; JUDGMENT DATE TO BE SET

MB240630 Blantyre Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] The present trial of Orton Chirwa and his wife Vera ended today at the southern region traditional court in Blantyre. The court will meet tomorrow to set the date of judgement. When the court met today, the prosecution wound up its submission which is started on Monday. Throughout the 3-day submission, the prosecution dealt with all the aspects of the case, beginning with the defense by Orton Chirwa, questioning the jurisdiction of the court to try the two. The prosecution dismissed the contention, saying that the court had power to try the two because they are citizens of Malawi, born in this country, with Orton Chirwa having been a Cabinet minister in the last Cabinet. The prosecution [words indistinct] the defense submitted that the two were kidnapped in Zambia. The prosecutor told the court that evidence had been collaborated by several witnesses and the accused persons were arrested inside Malawi. [passage indistinct]

The treason trial started on 28 July last year, and [words indistinct].

MOZAMBIQUE

RNM COMMUNIQUE REPORTS BUS, TRAIN AMBUSHES

MB230930 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Africa in Portuguese to Mozambique 1700 GMT 22 Feb 83

["Communique" issued by the headquarters of the Mozambique National Resistance -- date not given]

[Text] On 7 February 1983 a Mozambique National Resistance [RNM] group staged an ambush on a bus carrying soldiers of the Popular Forces for the Liberation of Mozambique [FPLM] on National Road No 6 in the Messica area of Manica Province. The bus was destroyed and several FPLM soldiers were killed. A number of FPLM soldiers were captured and others fled.

On 15 February 1983 RNM forces destroyed a train during an ambush on the Maputo-Zimbabwe railway line in an area between Mabalane and Canicado. Our forces killed 5 FPLM soldiers and captured 14 AK-47 weapons, 2 RPG-7 rocket launchers and an RPD machine gun.

The struggle continues. Freedom or death, victory is ours.

VOFA CLAIMS FRELIMO ATTACKS, KILLS CIVILIANS

MB221423 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Africa in Portuguese to Mozambique 1700 GMT 21 Feb 83

[Text] Maputo -- According to well-informed sources, Frelimo special forces known as the cleanup group [grupo limpa], [words indistinct] of Zimbabwe's Fifth Brigade, which is presently massacring the people of Matabeleland, killed 35 civilians in two attacks carried out in central Mozambique. Frelimo special forces carried out in central Mozambique. Frelimo special forces staged two ambushes in the central part of the country, and the attacks took place on the main road linking Zimbabwe to the port of Beira.

The same sources says that Frelimo special forces killed more than 5 civilians and wounded 16 in an attack on a civilian bus. It was not known how many people died during the attack on the bus, but Chimoi's hospital was reported to be very busy, the source said. The state's morgue could not take more of the dead because it was packed to capacity with corpses.

The Maputo government orders these crimes to be committed with the aim of supporting its claims that the South African regime supports Mozambique National Resistance guerrillas in what Frelimo describes as crimes against the Mozambican people.

ARMED FORCES DEFEAT RSA-TRAINED 'GANGSTERS'

EA221841 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0605 GMT 20 Feb 83

[Unidentified report carried in the "Voice of Combat" program]

[Text] Fulfilling their glorious mission to defend the interests of the Mozambique people, the Mozambique Armed Forces continue to inflict heavy defeats on the armed gangsters trained by the Pretoria racist regime.

Thus, in collaboration with members of the general public, our forces, on 9 February this year, shot dead 10 bandits and captured 2 others in the Lake (Lufumbu) area in Mutarara, Tete Province.

During this operation our forces captured several items of war equipment, including ammunition, landmines, and explosives. They also freed members of the general public who had been kidnapped by the armed gangsters. After this operation, our forces mounted a hot pursuit operation against the remaining members of the armed gangsters, who fled in disarray.

Our forces also caused heavy casualties and destroyed a base of the enemy on 14 February 1983, in Chidoco region, Manica Province. During the operation, our forces captured 5 rifle magazines, a bag containing ammunition, and 28 shells for 60-mm mortars. Later, in a mopping-up operation, the Armed Forces discovered three rifle magazines that had been abandoned. Some of the armed gangsters are now fleeing in disarray and our forces are continuing their mopping-up and hot pursuit operation.

NAMIBIA

SECURITY FORCES LAUNCH OFFENSIVE AGAINST SWAPO

MB240910 Johannesburg THE STAR in English 23 Feb 83 p 1

[By Peter Honey of THE STAR's Africa news service]

[Excerpt] Namibian security forces have thrown all available manpower into a counteroffensive against a force of more than 600 SWAPO guerrillas who have infiltrated the territory. The white farming areas of Tsumeb and Kamanjab were braced for war today as several detachments of highly-trained guerrillas continued their thrust south from the Angolan border. In the past week 129 guerrillas have been killed for the loss of two policemen.

And as the SWAPO raiders pressed forward the SWA Territory Force announced that a further 33 guerrillas had been killed since Sunday. Many of those killed wore camouflage uniforms, though civilian clothing and South African money was found in their ruck sacks. Some carried Russian Draganov sniper rifles, supporting a security force belief that they are intent on killing traditional leaders.

A report from a usually reliable source said guerrilla tracks had been discovered on an uninhabited farm on the northern border of the Tsumeb District. About 100 more guerrillas are poised in southern Angola as South African and Angolan delegations were believed to have begun a second round of cease-fire talks on the Cape Verde island of Sal.

"We are doing everything in our power to prevent them infiltrating further," a SWA Territory Force spokesman said. He said follow-up operations were being hampered by the extremely dense bush in eastern Owambo. The fact that the infiltration was taking place over such a broad front made interception difficult. The insurgents were also helped by sporadic rain which supplied them with water and washed away their tracks.

Though the insurgents appeared to be moving fast they are believed to be still some distance from the main farming areas. However, contingency plans for the defence of individual farms were underway. Farmers were kept up to date with known guerrilla movements by radio and through agricultural liaison committees, the spokesman said. "We are keeping them fully in the picture."

For its guerrilla offensive, by far the strongest in the 16-year-old war, SWAPO appears to have thrown in nearly the full complement of its specialist training base near Lubango. Most of the guerrillas appear bound for the "traditional" operational areas of Kackoland, Owambo and western Kavongo.

"It seems now that SWAPO will repeat its pattern of last year -- keeping the security forces busy in the northern operational area while certain groups attempt to infiltrate to the south," the spokesman said.

ZIMBABWE

MUGABE ANNOUNCES NEW SECURITY MEASURES 23 FEB

MB231321 Harare Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Mugabe, today set out two ways in which security can be preserved as well as the maintenance of law and order. Comrade Mugabe said it is intended to increase the ratio of police to population in order to give coverage in the rural areas, particularly where development and expansion of economic and rural activities are taking place. He said the second means of improving efficiency is the restructuring of the police force and its transformation into a people-orientated force.

Comrade Mugabe was speaking in Harare when he reviewed a passout parade of 200 patrol officers, constables, and the support unit at (Morris) depot.

Tomorrow Comrade Mugabe is scheduled to address rallies in Buhera. The first rally will be at 0830 in the morning and the second at Buhera center in the afternoon. The prime minister will be accompanied by ministers of mines, labor and social services, national supplies, natural resources and tourism, and industry and energy development.

PEACE COUNCIL EXPECTED NKOMO IN PRAGUE

MB231253 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] The World Peace Council in Czechoslovakia has confirmed that the Zimbabwean ZAPU [Zimbabwean African People's Union] opposition leader, Joshua Nkomo, had been expected to attend the 2-day meeting in Prague. The chairman of the World Peace Council, Professor Chandra of India, said Mr Nkomo was the vice president of the Council and should have attended its executive meeting. Mr Nkomo was prevented from leaving Zimbabwe for Prague last Saturday.

In an interview with Radio RSA, Mr Nkomo has said that his passport is still being held by the Zimbabwean authorities although he still plans to go to the conference in Prague. Earlier the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation quoted a diplomatic official of the Czechoslovakian Embassy in Harare as saying that Mr Nkomo had no visa to visit Czechoslovakia. He said the embassy knew nothing about an invitation to Mr Nkomo to attend the World Peace Council meeting in Prague.